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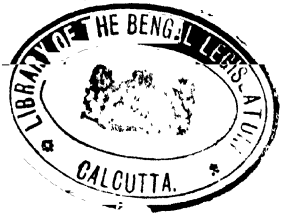


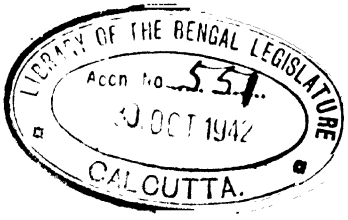
Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

Thirteenth Session, 1942.

The 16th, 18th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th February, 1942.



Superintendent, Government Printing
Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal
1942

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency Sir JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. ABUL KASEM FAZLUL HUQ, in charge of the Home and Publicity Departments.

(2) The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE, in charge of the Finance Department.

(3) The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca, in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries.

(4) The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU, in charge of the Department of Public Health and Local Self-Government.

(5) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM, in charge of the Education Department and of the Department of Commerce and Labour.

(6) The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE, in charge of the Revenue Department and of the Judicial and Legislative Departments.

(7) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department.

(8) The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED, in charge of the Department of Communications and Works.

(9) The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN, in charge of the Forest and Excise Department.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

Pl[illegible] OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY, ESQ.

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Khan Sahib QUAZI MUHAMMAD SADRUL OLA.

SECOND ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

A. B. CHATERJI, Esq.

REGISTRAR.

Maulvi MANZURA QUADARI.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md. [Narayanganj East (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza. [Tangail West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hafiz Mia, Mr. [Kurigram South (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakeem, Mr. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakim, Maulvi. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]

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Azhar Ali, Maulvi. [Pabna East (Muhammadan).]

Azizul Haque, the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur. [Nadia West (Muhammadan).]

B

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Barma, Mr. Puspajit. [Rangpur (General).]

Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad. [Dinajpur (General).]

Barman, the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]

Basu, Mr. Jatindra Nath. [Calcutta North (General).]

Basu, the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar. [Calcutta East (General).]

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Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah (European).]

Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan. [Nadia (General).]

Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal. [Jessore (General).]

Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath. [Faridpur (General).]

Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra. [Calcutta South (General).]

C

Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath. [Rangpur (General).]

Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]

Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada. [Nadia (General).]

Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath. [24-Parganas Municipal (General).]

Chippendale, Mr. J. W. (Anglo-Indian.)

Clark, Mr. I. A. [Burdwan Division (European).]

D

Das, Babu Radha Nath. [Hooghly North-East (General).]

Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra. [24-Parganas North-West (General).]

Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan. [Murshidabad (General).]

Das, Mr. Monomohan. [Mymensingh East (General).]

Dass, Babu Debendra Nath. [Birbhum (General).]

Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]

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Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath. [Bakarganj South-West (General).]

Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath. [Tippera (General).]

Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath. [Jhargram *cum* Ghatal (General).]

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Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira. [Calcutta General (Women).]

Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu. [Barrackpore (Registered Factories).]

E

Edbar, Mr. Upendranath. [Bakarganj South-West (General).]

Emdadul Haque, Kazi. [Kurigram North (Muhammadan).]

F

Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M. [Jangipur (Muhammadan).]

Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum. [Dacca (Muhammadan) Women.]

Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. [Patuakhali North (Muhammadan).]

Fazlul Qadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Chittagong North-West (Muhammadan).]

Fazlur Rahman, Mr. [Jamalpur East (Muhammadan).]

Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca University.)

G

Ganguly, Mr. Pratul Chandra. [East Bengal Municipal (General).]

Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna. [Jessore (General).]

Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Jamalpur West (Muhammadan).]

Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]

Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed. [Ramganj *cum* Raipur (Muhammadan).]

Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi. [Dinajpur Central West (Muhammadan).]

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Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra. [Burdwan Division North Municipal (General).]

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Gupta, Mr. J. N. [Railway Trade Union (Labour).]

Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh. [Darjeeling (General).]

Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Al-Hadj. [Madaripur East (Muhammadan).]

H

Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca. [Dacca Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi. [Thakurgaon (Muhammadan).]

Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib. [Kishoreganj East (Muhammadan).]

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Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed. [Tangail North (Muhammadan).]

Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Md [Tippera South (Muhammadan).]

Hashem Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]

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Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Pirojpur South (Muhammadan).]

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Hendry, Mr. David. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Hodge, Mr. H. R. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

I

Idris Ahmed Mia, Mr. [Malda South (Muhammadan).]

Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

J

Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Cox's Bazar (Muhammadan).]

Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed. [Satkhira (Muhammadan).]

Jalan, Mr. I. D. [Calcutta West (General).]

Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [24-Parganas South (Muhammadan).]

Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi. [Chandpur East (Muhammadan).]

K

Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Netrokona South (Muhammadan).]

Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed. [Murshidabad South-West (Muhammadan).]

Kennedy, Mr. I. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

Khaitan, Mr. Debi Prosad. (Indian Chamber of Commerce.)

Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall. [Midnapore Central (General).]

Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra. [Malda (General).]

Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath. [Dinajpur (General).]

L

Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh. [North Bengal Municipal (General).]

M

MacGregor, Mr. G. G. (Indian Tea Association.)

MacPherson, Mr. G. P. [Rajshahi Division (European).]

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. [Bogra North (Muhammadan).]

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]

Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi. [Balurghat (Muhammadan).]

Maguire, Mr. L. T. (Anglo-Indian.)

Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Uday Chand, of Burdwan. [Burdwan Central (General).]

Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari. [Midnapore South-East (General).]

Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar. [Burdwan Central (General).]

Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova. [Dacca (General) Women.]

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Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra. [Midnapore South-West (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal. [Mymensingh West (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari. [Burdwan North-West (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra. [Faridpur (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra. [Tippera (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath. [Bakarganj North-East (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad. [Midnapore Central (General).]

Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]

Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md. [Chittagong South Central (Muhammadan).]

Maqbul Hosain, Mr. [Tippera North-East (Muhammadan).]

Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi. [Tangail South (Muhammadan).]

Miles, Mr. C. W. (Indian Tea Association.)

Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur. [Bogra West (Muhammadan).]

Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md. [Meherpur (Muhammadan).]

Mookerjee, the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad. (Calcutta University.)

Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E. [Presidency Division (European).]

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Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi. [Noakhali North (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi. [Bogra South (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Israil, Maulvi. [Kishoreganj South (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed. [Bankura (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]

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Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan. (Hooghly North-East.)

Mukherjee, Mr. B. [Colliery (Coal Mines) (Labour).]

Mukherji, Dr. H. C. [Calcutta *cum* Presidency Division (Indian Christian).]

Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra. [Birbhum (General).]

Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh. [Bankura West (General).]

Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behari. [Khulna (General).]

Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary. [Howrah (General).]

Musharruff Hossain, Nawab, Khan Bahadur. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Darjeeling (Muhammadan).]

Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed. [Bagerhat (Muhammadan).]

Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi. [Brahmanbaria North (Muhammadan).]

N

Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar, (Presidency Landholders.)

Nasarullah, Nawabzada K. [Brahmanbaria South (Muhammadan).]

Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]

Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed. [Jessore Sadar (Muhammadan).]

Nazimuddin, Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]

Nooruddin, Mr. K. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Norton, Mr. H. R. (Calcutta Trades Association.)

P

Pain, Mr. Barada Prosanna. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (General).]

Paul, Sir Hari Sankar. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Poddar, Mr. Anandilall (Marwari Association.)

Pottinger, Mr. G. U. [Chittagong Division (European).]

Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan. [Malda (General).]

R

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Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]

Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi. [Bogra East (Muhammadan).]

Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Tippera West (Muhammadan).]

Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr. [Dacca South Central (Muhammadan).]

Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra. [Mymensingh West (General).]

Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy. [Dacca East (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna. [Bankura East (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [Dacca West (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati. [Jhargram *cum* Ghatal (General).]

Roy, Rai Bahadur Kshirod Chandra. (Chittagong Landholders.)

Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath. [Howrah (General).]

Roy, Mr. Patiram. [Khulna (General).]

Roy, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)

S

Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]

Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji. [Rangpur North (Muhammadan).]

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Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar. [Murshidabad (General).]

Sarker, Babu Madhusudan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]

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Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]

Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath. [Khulna (General).]

Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie. [Chittagong (General).]

Serajul Islam, Mr. [Bongaon (Muhammadan).]

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Shahedali, Mr. [Matlabbazar (Muhammadan).]

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Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr. [Gopalganj (Muhammadan).]

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Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan. [Bankura West (General).]

Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda. [Bengal Dooars (Western) Tea Garden Labour.]

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Stark, Mr. A. F. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Steven, Mr. J. W. R. [Dacca (European).]

Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar. [Noakhali (General).]

T

Tamizuddin Khan, Mr. [Faridpur West (Muhammadan).]

Thakur, Mr. Promatha Ranjan. [Faridpur (General).]

Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji. [Bhola South (Muhammadan).]

W

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Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C.B.E. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

Whitehead, Mr. R. B. (Indian Mining Association.)

Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Y

Yousuf Mirza. [24-Parganas Central (Muhammadan).]

Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr. [Faridpur East (Muhammadan).]

Z

Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi. [Malda North (Muhammadan).]

Zaman, Mr. A. M. A. [Hooghly *cum* Serampore (Registered Factories) Labour.]

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Official Report of the Thirteenth Session.

Volume LXII—No. 1.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the "Assembly House", Calcutta, on Monday, the 16th February, 1942, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 208 members.

Affirmation of Allegiance.

Mr. Anandilall Poddar made his affirmation of allegiance to the Crown.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. SPEAKER: In accordance with the provisions of Rule 6 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, I nominate the following members of the Legislative Assembly to form a panel of 4 Chairmen for the ensuing session:—

(1) Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, K.C.I.E.

(2) Mr. David Hendry.

(3) Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy, and

(4) Mr. Debi Prosad Khaitan.

Unless otherwise arranged the senior member among them present in the above order will preside over the deliberations of the Assembly in my absence and in the absence of the Deputy Speaker to be elected.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Failure of crops near Tolly's Nulla.

***1. Maharaja SASHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHOUDHURY, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware of the failure of crop in the area bounded on the north by the Tolly's Nulla, east by the Bidyadhari river, south by the Peali river and west by the Eastern Bengal Railway, 24-Parganas?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes taking for re-excavation of the said rivers at an early date.

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMEMNT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Work for the improvement of the Tolly's Nulla has been taken in hand, and a scheme for the improvement of the Bidyadhari and the Peali rivers has been sanctioned. The execution of this scheme will be taken in hand as soon as the Corporation cease to discharge their sewage into the Bidyadhari.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the improvement of the Tolly's Nulla was taken in hand?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I ask for notice.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how far the work of improvement of the Tolly's Nulla has been proceeded with?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: We expect to finish it this year.

Embankments in Murshidabad.

***2. Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state how many embankments, other than roads and railway, are in existence in—

(*i*) Khargram police-station of Kandi subdivision;

(*ii*) Kandi police-station of the said subdivision;

(*iii*) Nabagram police-station of the Lalbagh subdivision; and

(*iv*) Hijole area of Kandi and Sadar subdivisions of the district of Murshidabad?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the fact that the existence of these embankments prevents the passage of water at the time of overflow and submerges the paddy crops?

(*c*) Have the Government reviewed the embankment question?

(*d*) If so, what steps, if any, the Government propose to take for preventing obstruction of water and submergence of crops in the aforesaid areas that happened in 1939 and 1941?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) (*i*) 3.

(*ii*) 31.

(*iii*) Nil.

(*iv*) 26.

(*b*) to (*d*) Investigation so far made reveals that only three of the embankments operate as a contributory cause of the drainage congestion. As to the rest, the extent of their interference with the regime of the rivers and its effect on free spilling or drainage are under investigation. What steps will have to be taken, if at all, will be decided after the completion of the investigation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*b*) to (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state since when these embankments were under examination and the matter has been under investigation and when does he expect a decision in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I admit that it has taken a very long time because the investigation first commenced in the year 1939. I have already sent reminders and I am trying to expedite the enquiry. I hope to be in a position to state the decision to the House soon.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that during the current year there has been a severe flood in those portions of Kandi subdivision where those embankments are located leading to serious loss of property and certain livestock?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: That is so.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: In case these investigations come to a satisfactory termination, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to inform us whether he will take up the problems before him during the pendency of the war?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question does not strictly arise, but I am permitting it as a special case.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Sir, in the first place the question does not arise——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the removal of the obstruction caused by the embankments would not involve any large expenditure?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The question of removal of embankments is under the consideration of Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I was just wondering, Sir, if the Hon'ble Minister had been frightened by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi's question regarding the adoption of measures during the continuance of the war. I am putting the question in this form so that the Government may be in a position to state that the non-maintenance of the embankments——

Mr. SPEAKER: You are to put questions and not to suggest answers.

Peali-Bidyadhari Scheme.

***3. Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware that over 60 square miles of land under Tollygunge, Sonarpur and Baruipur thanas, district 24-Parganas, are still under water?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any provision has been made for the excavation of the Peali-Bidyadhari drainage Scheme?

(*c*) If so, whether the scheme is likely to be taken up this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) About 20 square miles was waterlogged in the beginning of December last.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

Preventing submergence of crops in Kandi and Lalbagh subdivisions.

*4. **Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether Government have ascertained the causes of the submergence of crops in the Kandi and Lalbagh subdivisions of the district of Murshidabad that occurred after the flood of October, 1941, and of 1939;

(*ii*) whether Government have considered the effect of the existence of embankments of zemindars and other proprietors in and around the affected areas; and

(*iii*) whether Government have consulted the District Officers, District Board Engineer, and Engineers of the Irrigation Department in the matter?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, what recommendations, if any, have been made by them?

(*c*) Have the Government considered the question of enlarging the passage of water of the river Dwarka near the recently constructed Rangram bridge?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what remedies, if any, are in the contemplation of Government for preventing submergence of crops and for ensuring free passage of water when there is overflow?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*d*) The matter is still under investigation.

(*c*) The waterway provided under the bridge is adequate and therefore no question of enlarging it arises.

Principle of posting Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police.

*5. **Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether there is any general principle or rule that Inspectors or Sub-Inspectors of Police cannot be posted in their home districts?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the statistics of the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police serving at present in their home districts with their names and length of service there?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) There is an executive instruction, directing that care should be taken to avoid the posting of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors to their home districts, although exception may be made in the case of an officer approaching retirement. There is no bar to an officer while on probation being posted to his home district.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the policy behind the principle of the rule in the case of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors who are due to retire and in the case of officers who are on probation?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Hon'ble Minister has stated that Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors are posted to home districts only prior to retirement——

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that it is strictly in order to ask the reason behind the policy.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I want to know what are the reasons for the relaxation of the rule prohibiting the posting of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors to home districts?

Mr. SPEAKER: That you can ask.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The reasons are these. In the case of probationers, they are drawing very small pay and it would be inconvenient for them if they are posted far away from their homes. So, they are generally posted to places where their guardians live.

As regards Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, on humanitarian grounds it is not considered quite proper to post them to incovenient places when they are on the verge of retirement.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he means by "humanitarian grounds"?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Look up the dictionary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Starred Question No. 6 and the reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The printed reply to this question was drafted by my predecessor (cries of "hear, hear" from the Progressive Coalition Party Benches) and I do not quite accept it. I would, therefore, ask for time to give a reply to this question.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Does the question then stand over, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. If there is any printed reply with which the Government do not agree, then I think it would be well if we are informed early so that the question may be taken out in time. After all, it does not look very well for Government to say in the open House that the reply given by an Hon'ble Minister of the previous Government and which is now sent to us, after an opportunity has been given to modify these replies if necessary, is again to be modified. Any way, for the time being I agree to take this question out, but I do hope that all departments will see that in future if there is any question like this, it is taken out of the list of questions.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I regret very much, Sir, it was done through an oversight and I entirely appreciate your observations.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: At the end of the last session, Sir, you gave us to understand that all the outstanding questions would be sent back for revision of the printed replies, if necessary. May I know whether that was done?

Mr. SPEAKER: You may take it that all that the Speaker then said has been carried out.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: We must take it for granted that the Hon'ble Minister is responsible for the statement that has been made in the printed reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not for me to say and I am not responsible for it.

Promotions of Muslims and non-Muslims to Bengal Junior Civil Service from other services.

*7. **Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state for the year 1940 and 1941 (up to 30th June, 1941), the number of promotions of—

(1) Muslims, and

(2) non-Muslims

from—

(a) other services to the Bengal Junior Civil Service;

(b) Bengal Junior Civil Service to the Bengal Civil Service; and

(c) Inspectors of Police to Deputy Superintendents of Police?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:

(a) 1940—

Muslim	No promotion.
Non-Muslim	

1941 (up to 30th June)—

Muslim	2
Non-Muslim	3

(b) 1940—

Muslim	2
Non-Muslim	1

1941 (up to 30th June)—

Muslim	No promotion.
Non-Muslim	

(c) 1940—

Muslim	1
Non-Muslim	4

1941 (up to 30th June)—

Muslim	Nil.
Non-Muslim	1

Conversion of Muallim Training School into Guru Training School at Feni.

*8. **Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether the Muallim Training School of Feni is going to be converted to a Guru Training School?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION and COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): Both Guru and Muallim Training Schools are now called Government Primary Training Schools. With the introduction of the revised curriculum the distinction between the two classes of schools has practically disappeared. The unification of the curricula of the Guru Training and Muallim Training Schools was a necessary consequence of the unificaton of the Primary School and Muktab curricula.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House what distinction he makes between a Guru and a Muallim?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: One is attended entirely by Hindu pupils and the other entirely by Muslim pupils.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Does the Hon'ble Minister realise that there would be two different standards of teaching by these two classes of teachers? Therefore, I should like to know whether their work is different.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Formerly there was a class of institutions called Maktabs entirely attended by Muslim students and a corresponding class of schools called the Guru Training Schools attended by Hindus. Now, these two have been amalgamated.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Muslim teacher is trained in a Guru Training School?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: If they want, they may.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Muslim teachers in primary schools are called Gurus? Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us more accurate information?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a substantial question, not a supplementary one.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that all the teachers to be appointed under the Primary Education Scheme have to pass their Guru Training examinations?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The Muhammadans receiving training are called Muallims and the Hindus Gurus.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I will have to disallow any further supplementary question on this point on the ground that this sort of information is sufficiently available to the members on my left.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: You yourself had said Sir, that the Hon'ble Ministers should come prepared to answer the old questions, but the Hon'ble Minister seems to know nothing about the present question.

Shia members on the Wakf Board.

***9. Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of Shia members on the Wakf Board; and

(*ii*) whether the number is in accordance with the ratio prescribed by the Act?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the majority of the members of the Board have been taken from the residents of Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) (*i*) 5.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the proportion between the Shia and Sunni members on the Wakf Board?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Sale of property of Gholam Sharf Wakf Estate at Dinajpur.

*10. **Mr. RAMIZUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether the late Maulvi Gholam Sharf Wakf Estate E. C. No. 956/39 has been enrolled under the Wakf Act?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any part of the said estate has been sold before or after the enrolment?

(*c*) If so, for what purpose?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) I have now no definite information in the matter, but I understand that enquiries are being made by the Commissioner of Wakfs.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Activities of District Inspector of Schools, Khulna.

*11. **Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether he has received any representation against the District Inspector of Schools, Khulna, alleging—

(*i*) that he has recently refused recognition of the Shirashuni Junior Madrassa and the Gumantali Madrassa, the only madrassas in Tala police-station and Shyamnagar police-station respectively in Khulna district without any cause whatsoever;

(*ii*) that he has withheld the lump sum grant of Rs.300 sanctioned by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, to the Banka Mussalmanpara Lower Primary School in Paikgachha police-station (Khulna); and

(*iii*) that he has withdrawn the Government share of money towards the Tala U. B. Biss Scheme Primary School?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any enquiry has been made into the matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Divisional Inspector of Schools has been asked for a report.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the report was called for and whether the report has been received by this time?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It is not yet before me, and I cannot say if it has been received.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the report was called for?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It was called for probably in the month of November, if my recollection serves me aright.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Divisional Inspector is delaying the report for such a long time?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I will look into it.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Enhancement of Land Revenue of Sundarbans Estates.

1. Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that the land revenue of the Sundarbans Estates of the district of 24-Parganas has been increased more than 500 per cent.?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of suspending the enforcement of such increment for a period of ten years or affording any other relief to the lot holders?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE, JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee): (*a*) Yes, in some cases.

(*b*) The question of giving relief to the proprietors of such estates is now under consideration of Government.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how long this matter has been under the consideration of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The matter has been under the consideration of this Government for a short time. In fact, we have had a conference and we are asking to meet a deputation of the proprietors of such estates.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Is it not a fact that this question was put in for answer in the November-December Session of the Assembly?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Very likely so, but the present Government was not responsible in November.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. In the interest of constitutionalism is it not right for a Minister to maintain a continuity of Government because His Majesty's Government continues while Cabinet may change? Is it right in your wisdom from the Chair to answer questions in this manner?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is perfectly legitimate for a member to say that this Government is functioning for a short time and that he cannot say anything for any other Government. The new Government might accept the responsibility, but if they do not I cannot help.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Under your directions, Sir, we are told, the questions were resubmitted——

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is it a point of order, Sir?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: No, it is an explanation demanded from the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: How can an explanation be demanded from the Chair?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: It is our very humble submission to you to protect our rights, because the Ministers come and tell us that they do not know this or that, even though you had said that these questions would be resubmitted before them.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid you are mistaken. I think my ruling stands and has been carried out by them, namely, the answers which might have been prepared by the last or previous Government whatever they may be are there and the present Government has accepted them.

Now when a further supplementary question has been asked as regards details as to what steps have been taken it is open to one Government to take responsibility or not.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: On a point of order, Sir. On the point of order raised by Mr. Siddiqi I would like to have your ruling in the matter whether a new Government is entitled to say that in view of the previous policy of the previous Government and in view of the present policy of the present Government the present Government is entitled to say that because of the change of policy they could not give such and such reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: Perfectly so.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many cases the revenue has been increased to more than 500 per cent.?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The information is not available before me.

Relief measures in Barisal, Noakhali and Tippera.

2. Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the Government have received any complaints from the people and non-official Relief Committees about the inadequacy of relief measures in cyclone-affected and flood-stricken areas of Barisal, Noakhali and Tippera?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to give adequate relief to the people?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate making any grant to the people for the reconstruction of the dismantled huts of the said districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (*a*) Petitions have been received from time to time from the people and non-official Relief Committees of Bakarganj, Noakhali and Tippera, praying for further relief.

(*b*) The following measures have been taken by Government in the districts concerned:—

Bakarganj.—A sum of Rs.26,70,000 has been sanctioned for distribution as agricultural loans, Rs.7,25,000 for test works and Rs.4,13,300 for gratuitous relief. A sum of Rs.5,000 has been sanctioned out of the grant from the Indian People's Famine Trust for distribution as gratuitous relief among those people of the middle class who are not

entitled to gratuitous relief under the Famine Code. A special scheme has also been sanctioned for giving loans to middle class non-agriculturists for rebuilding their houses and a sum of Rs.1,50,000 has been sanctioned for the purpose.

Noakhali.—A sum of Rs.13,40,000 has been sanctioned for distribution as agricultural loans and Rs.60,000 for test works. A sum of Rs.1,00,000 has been sanctioned for distribution as gratuitous relief, and Rs.1,25,000 for working the paddy-husking scheme introduced in the district. A sum of Rs.5,000 has been sanctioned out of the grant from the Indian People's Famine Trust for distribution as gratuitous relief among those people of the middle class who are not entitled to gratuitous relief under the Famine Code. A special scheme has been sanctioned for giving loans to middle class non-agriculturists for rebuilding their houses and a sum of Rs.50,000 has been sanctioned for the purpose. Another special scheme has also been sanctioned for giving loans to weavers and artisans and a sum of Rs.25,000 has been sanctioned for the purpose A sum of Rs.5,000 has been sanctioned for issuing free railway passes to landless labourers of the distressed areas to enable them to migrate to other places in search of work.

Tippera.—A sum of Rs.8,02,000 has been sanctioned for distribution as agricultural loans and Rs.50,000 as test works. A sum of Rs.1,10,800 has been sanctioned for distribution as gratuitous relief and Rs.1,43,200 for working the paddy-husking scheme introduced in the district.

(*c*) Agricultural loans and loans from the special schemes referred to above, have been utilised partly for rebuilding of huts.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the amount sanctioned for the district of Tippera as agricultural loan is very inadequate and a petition has been made to this effect by many persons including myself?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The question of adequacy is a question of opinion. The honourable member will find the amount sanctioned in the answer above, but I will look into the matter.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please make an immediate enquiry into the matter that unless an agricultural loan is sanctioned in many places cultivators will not be able to sow seeds?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I will look into the matter.

Sadar Hospitals equipped with X'ray.

3. Khan Bahadur Dr. SYED MD. SIDDIQUE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of the Sadar Hospitals in Bengal that are equipped with X'ray installation; and

(*ii*) the number of them that are provided with X'ray trained doctors?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate the appointment of X'ray trained doctors in hospitals referred to in clause (*a*) (*i*)?

(*c*) If so, when?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (*a*) (*i*) A list of 21 Sadar Hospitals which are equipped with X'ray installation is laid on the Table.

(*ii*) Seventeen of these hospitals are provided with X'ray trained doctors.

(*b*) and (*c*) An X'ray trained doctor will soon be appointed in Comilla Sadar Hospital. As regards the other three hospitals, viz., Rajshahi, Berhampore (Murshidabad), Imambara (Hooghly), an enquiry is being made if local trained men have already been appointed in them. If the local bodies concerned are unable to procure the services of local trained men, X'ray trained doctors will be supplied by Government to those hospitals as soon as they are available.

List of Sadar Hospitals in Bengal equipped with X'ray.

(1) Fraser Hospital, Burdwan.

(2) Suri Sadar Hospital, Birbhum.

(3) Sadar Hospital, Midnapore.

(4) Imambara Hospital, Hooghly.

(5) General Hospital, Howrah.

(6) Sambhunath Pandit Hospital, 24-Parganas.

(7) Sadar Hospital, Krishnagar, Nadia.

(8) Berhampore Sadar Hospital, Murshidabad.

(9) Woodburn Hospital, Khulna.

(10) Mitford Hospital, Dacca.

(11) S. K. Hospital, Mymensingh.

(12) Sadar Hospital, Faridpur.

(13) Sadar Hospital, Barisal.

(14) General Hospital, Chittagong.

(15) Comilla Sadar Hospital, Tippera.

(16) Sadar Hospital, Rajshahi.

(17) General Hospital, Jalpaiguri.

(18) Sadar Hospital, Rangpur.

(19) Sadar Hospital, Pabna.

(20) Sadar Hospital, Malda.

(21) Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this enquiry regarding the availability of local trained experts will be complete?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Answers are to come from the local bodies themselves. If they have not come yet, an enquiry will be made again.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: How long will that enquiry take?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: So long as the local bodies take time to answer questions sent out from the Writers' Buildings.

Appointments of literate constables in Calcutta Police from 1936 to March, 1939.

4. Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of—

(*i*) Hindus, and

(*ii*) Muslims

appointed as literate constables since January, 1936, up to 31st March, 1939;

(*b*) the number of—

(*i*) Hindu, and

(*ii*) Muslim

constables that have been promoted as literate constables within the said period?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: There is no rank of literate constable in the Bengal Police. The figures for the Calcutta Police are shown below—

(*a*) (*i*) 70 and (*ii*) 16.

(*b*) (*i*) 6 and (*ii*) 1.

Parking of motor cars near cinema house.

5. Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether any complaint has been received by the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, regarding a matter of racial discrimination in allowing motorists to park near a cinema house?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps did the Commissioner of Police take to inquire into the allegation?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact—

(*i*) that there exists a feeling in the minds of Indian motorists on this point; and

(*ii*) that occurrences of like nature, viz., giving preference to European motorists, are increasing in the city of Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) One complaint was received on the 10th September, 1940.

(*b*) A prompt enquiry was made.

(*c*) No.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how was the enquiry conducted—in what manner?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not in a position to say.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Hon'ble Minister has made a statement that a prompt enquiry was made. I would like to know in this connection in what manner the enquiry was conducted.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has said that he is not in a position to say.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No enquiry was made.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: An enquiry was made. An officer was sent. He must have enquired into the matter, taken down statements, come to some conclusion and submitted a report. All these things were done.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the result of the enquiry and the action taken thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have issued or propose to issue any instructions to the sergeants and police not to make such racial discrimination?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know of any such discrimination, but I will enquire and if necessary shall issue adequate instructions.

Renewal of gun licence and contributions towards war fund.

6. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing with respect to the Dinajpur district—

(*i*) the number of the present gun licence holders who made contributions towards war fund;

(*ii*) the dates on which the contributions were made;

(*iii*) the amount of the contribution made by each of them;

(*iv*) the dates on which the renewal of the licence was made in each case; and

(*v*) the number of persons who have been issued new licences for gun this year with dates on which the orders were passed?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that before renewal of gun licence was ordered the licence holders in the district of Dinajpur had to contribute towards war funds either to the Subdivisional Officers of the respective subdivisions or to the clerks in charge of the licences?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of new gun licences issued last year;

(*ii*) the number of such licensees that made contributions towards the war funds; and

(*iii*) the amount of contributions made by each?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the total amount of war contributions realised from the district of Dinajpur?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) to (*iv*) There are 1,897 licence holders in the Dinajpur district of whom 917 paid on different dates, to the war fund, contributions varying from eight annas to three hundred and seventy-five rupees. A statement furnishing the information required is laid on the Library Table.

(*v*) New licences were granted to 21 persons. A statement showing the dates on which orders were passed is laid on the Library Table.

(*b*) No, though the opportunity afforded by the gatherings for the renewals of licences was taken to appeal for subscriptions from licence holders.

(*c*) (*i*) 89.

(*ii*) 13.

(*iii*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*d*) Rs.82,847-1-3 (up to the 20th August, 1941).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*) (*i*) to (*iv*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the significance of the dates of contribution and the dates of issuing of the licenses being nearabout?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot say.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the question relates to the cœrcive methods adopted by the executive officers of Dinajpur for raising war funds particularly——

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has said he cannot say.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the Hon'ble Minister noticed that the dates when the contributions were made on varying dates were the dates when the licenses were issued?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is not possible for me to say offhand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The statement is laid on the library table and it is in the files of the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: The statement is there and you can draw your own inference.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the question put by my friend Dr. Sanyal, does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate making an enquiry into the matter in view of the fact that in 917 cases almost 90 per cent. of realisation was made on the same dates as the licenses were issued and also in view of the fact that Rs. 375 was the maximum amount that was realised as war contributions during the issue of licenses?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: These are comments on figures; it is not a question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate making an enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if, in view of the statement laid on the library table, Government propose to issue instructions to the district officers not to use such methods for raising war funds?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I think, Sir, instructions were issued as soon as these facts were brought to the notice of Government.

Issuing of passes for grazing of cattle.

7. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present rate of annual combined passes for grazing cattle, collection of fuel and cutting sun-grass together from the Reserved forest, Chittagong; and

(*ii*) the rate of the said pass before the year 1916?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the system of issuing separate passes has been introduced in place of combined passes?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the rate of such passes has been increased; and

(*ii*) whether their period has also been shortened?

MINISTER in charge of the FOREST and EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath Burman): (*a*) (*i*) The issue of such passes has been discontinued.

(*ii*) Annas 12 only.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) A statement showing the rates of royalty on different forest produce in Chittagong is placed on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (c) of unstarred question No. 7.

Produce.	Rate of royalty.
Grazing—	
(*a*) Cows	Annas 2 per head per annum.
(*b*) Buffaloes	Re.1 per head per annum except in Chakaria-Sundarbans where the rate is Re.1-8.
Bamboos	Rs.5 per 1 000 for *Muli* bamboos, annas 8 for a fortnight for 1 load a day.
Poles for house posts	Annas 3 upwards according to size and species. Very few posts are available except in reserves, where D class posts at annas 3 and annas 4 can be had.
Dry firewood	Firewood passes are now no longer required to be taken out by persons who have taken out permits for grazing in the Reserve and Protected forests.
Thatch grass	Indigent persons are now allowed free thatching materials other than *San* grass and *Satamuli* and persons not paying Union Board taxes can now obtain free passes for such materials.
Knees and crooks	Anna 1 each.

Average death-rate from malaria.

8. **Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the average death-rate per thousand of population from malaria in the different districts of the Province during the year, 1940; and

(*ii*) the districts where the death-rate from malaria is on the increase?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what special steps, if any, have been taken or proposed to be taken to check the increase in those districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) A statement showing the death-rates per thousand of population from malaria in the districts of Bengal during the years 1931-1940 is placed on the Library Table. It will be seen that the death-rate from malaria has been on the increase during the last decade in the districts of Burdwan, Rangpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, Bakarganj and Chittagong; in Noakhali and Tippera the rates are almost steady, while in other districts a downward tendency is indicated.

(*b*) A statement showing the special steps which have been taken and are proposed to be taken to check the increase of malaria in the districts mentioned above is also placed on the Library Table.

Registration of persons under the Criminal Tribes Act in Noakhali and Tippera.

9. **Mr. SYED AHMED KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state how many persons have been registered under the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924 (Act VI of 1924) in the districts of Noakhali and Tippera?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the majority of them were so registered about four years back?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (a) and (b) of unstarred question No. 9.

	Total number of persons registered under Criminal Tribes Act, 1924.	Number of persons registered before 1938.
Noakhali	.. 88	56
Tippera	.. 405	313

Introduction of "Hefzul Quran" in Calcutta Madrassa.

10. Khan Bahadur Maulana AHMED ALI ENAYETPURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that there is no arrangement for Hefzul Quran or the teaching of the Holy Quran by heart in the Calcutta Madrassa?

(*b*) If so, what steps do the Government contemplate taking in the matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A scheme is under my consideration.

Collection of "Poor Box" fund by Calcutta Police.

11. Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that the Deputy Commissioners of the Calcutta Police collect money for fund known as "Poor Box" from motorists for alleged petty infringements of the Motor Vehicles Rules?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what was the annual receipt for the years 1939, 1938 and 1937; and

(*ii*) whether the fund is subject to Government audit?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the expenditure from the said fund for the year 1939?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Money is collected *inter alia* for infringements of Motor Vehicles Rules

(*b*) (*i*) 1937—Rs.37,139.
1938—Rs.39,750.
1939—Rs.31,600.

(*ii*) Yes.

(c) The amounts were disbursed in small sums and to supply information would involve an expenditure of time, labour and money which I am not prepared to undertake.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: With reference to answer (b)(ii) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which department of Government conducts audit?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The Audit Department of Government conducts audit (laughter).

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Is there any Audit Department of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The Finance Department of Government controls audit.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir. I think the House should receive respectful consideration at the hands of Ministers. Therefore when the Chief Minister says offhand that it is the Audit Department, he should have thought that there is no such department and therefore——.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. You might have raised the point after the question was over. You should not have interrupted in this manner.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that opinion was taken by Government regarding the legality of maintaining this "Poor Box" Fund by the Calcutta Police and the opinion was that it was illegal?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware of it.

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: I think it is the courtesy of the House that the Hon'ble Chief Minister should stand up and reply.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that grants from this fund are made exclusively to Anglo-Indian charities and mostly to the relations of police officers?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what control do Government exercise over the disbursement of the proceeds of this fund or the method by which this fund is raised?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry the whole question is about collection and not disbursement. There is nothing in this question about disbursement.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention was drawn in connection with this question to previous questions in this Assembly on this particular matter of "Poor Fund" in the years 1937, 1938 and 1939?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not remember exactly. It may have been, but I do not recollect.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the controlling authority of this fund and who makes the disbursement?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The controlling authority is the Commissioner of Police.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Does he sanction expenditure from the fund and is he the only authority who sanctions expenditure out of this fund?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: He is the only controlling authority; there cannot be more than one authority.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that motorists were unduly and unnecessarily harassed to augment the income to this fund?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Adjournment Motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I enquire what has happened to my adjournment motion regarding the arrest and detention of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee?

Mr. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact you are raising an issue which I am personally looking into. For the present I cannot say anything more.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In that case the question of urgency may be waived.

Mr. SPEAKER: Whatever is within my power I shall do.

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: I have got an adjournment motion for which I have got your consent.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to be satisfied as to whether this motion is in order.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The point is this that the Defence of India Rules are being misused and abused by Government. Therefore I think it is the business of the House to consider the consternation that is going on in the province on account of the misuse of the rules. The students are being repressed and expelled from colleges.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would have straight-off withheld my consent, but I could not do that on the ground that this is the first time that this section of the House is in the Opposition and we must discuss this matter and try to understand the Opposition view-point. Under the rules under which an adjournment motion of this character can be admitted you must raise only one definite matter and it has been the definite convention all over India and even abroad that you should raise only a specific individual issue. What I feel is that this motion is so wide and in such general terms as repressive measures taken by Government against such and such persons and in such and such places that I do not yet know as to how I can take it as one individual question. If there is anything on this point I shall be glad to hear it.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The only issue raised in this motion is misuse of the Defence of India Rules which have been wrongly applied by the Government of Bengal. These Defence of India Rules have been promulgated in order to check the subversive movements and to protect India from such activities, but, the Government of Bengal are misusing the powers that have been vested in them. That is the point.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, before you give your ruling may I submit one point? Under rule 96 of the Assembly Procedure Rules an adjournment motion can be moved for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance. Here the motion makes out a definite case, namely abuse of the Defence of India Rules in persecuting members of the Muslim League. This is a definite and exclusive matter. Over and above that for the purpose of conforming

to the rules you will see that the motion wants to raise the question of persecution of Muslim students. I submit, Sir, that the motion covers the point mentioned by you that it should refer to a definite and specific matter.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: May I add, Sir, that the motion covers repression? Repression is a specific matter. Suppose there is a repression. It cannot be argued that if the repression is limited only to one person it can be admitted and if it applies to hundred persons it cannot be admitted, because it is not a specific matter. The specific matter is repression and the repression has become almost provincewide.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have very carefully considered this matter. First of all I might say that there is nothing mentioned about the Muslim League in the adjournment motion itself or in the statement. The point that has been raised is the question of repressive measures taken against the student community in arresting a few student leaders. I am afraid the language is such that while you are speaking about the repressive measures taken against the whole student community, you say that a few student leaders have been arrested. It is very difficult for me to reconcile one with the other.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Before you give your ruling, Sir——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I have very carefully considered this matter and I am satisfied that the motion raises such wide and general issues that it cannot properly come within the purview of an adjournment motion. I declare that this motion is out of order.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: May I have your permission to amend it and submit it to-morrow?

Mr. SPEAKER: You can do so if you like.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: You will waive the question of urgency?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not say one way or the other just now.

Budget Estimates for 1942-43.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the Budget for the year 1942-43.

The situation which confronts us today is without parallel in the history of our country. The war is now at our door. So long as

hostilities were confined to Europe and Africa, the war seemed a long way from Bengal. But now with a new and powerful enemy so close to her borders, this Province finds itself all but in the front line. Constitutionally situated as we are, we can neither organise nor direct the military defence of Bengal. Our budget therefore has nothing to do with active military defence. But I believe I shall voice the feelings of all sections of the people of Bengal when I say that it is only by a proper co-ordination of a nation's fullest efforts both in respect of Military Defence and Civil Defence that it may successfully face a modern war with confidence, courage and determination. Our budgetary plans have to be so modified as to reflect a proper appreciation of current events beyond our borders. In a limited sense therefore my budget is in the nature of a War Budget, dealing as it does with schemes of Civil Defence of considerable magnitude. In the estimates that I shall place before the House this afternoon, "Nation-saving" takes the place of "Nation-building".

It can be argued that expenditure on Defence is not a proper charge on provincial revenues and that under the Government of India Act the whole responsibility for Defence falls on the Centre. I shall have more to say on this question later but, whatever the correct constitutional position may be, it must be appreciated that the days when a non-combatant population went about its normal work free from molestation and slept peacefully o' nights behind the shelter of well-held frontiers are gone and now even though the enemy is held by land and on the sea there is no saying when air-borne raiders may not rain down death and destruction from the sky. The possibility of attack from the air, from which no city however strongly fortified is nowadays completely immune, gives rise to problems intimately connected with the day-to-day administration of the province. A huge army of civil defence workers has to be organised and trained in A.R.P. duties. Fire-fighting organisations have to be expanded and multiplied. There must be squads of trained rescue workers to extricate persons trapped in bombed buildings. Additional hospital accommodation has to be provided for the treatment of casualties. Suitable arrangements have to be made for the supply of food and shelter to those who may be rendered homeless by air raids. Alternative sources of drinking-water have to be provided. Special provisions have to be made for the maintenance of internal order and security and for prevention of panic and alarm. These are some of the elementary precautions against the effects of air raids and there can be no question that they constitute primary obligations that no Government can neglect today without exposing itself to charges of blindness and incompetence. I shall revert to this subject later but let me emphasise that while elaborate schemes have been worked out on the basis of expert advice and experience gained elsewhere, the successful execution of them will

depend on the fulfilment of two essential conditions. In the first place, there must be fully co-ordinated efforts on the part of Government, speedy decisions and actions, unhampered by the traditional red-tape. In the second place, there must be sincere and whole-hearted co-operation on the part of all sections of the people who in spite of local differences must stand solidly united and face the common danger in a spirit of calmness and courage. The expenditure involved in emergency measures of Civil Defence is so far beyond the resources of the Province that we have no alternative but to rely on the Centre to supplement our inadequate resources and to enable us to discharge our obligations. All parties in the House will agree that so long as the present emergency continues, there can be no diversion of the resources of the Province to purposes that can wait. This must be the guiding principle of our budgetary plans for the coming year. We must bid adieu for a time—short or long as Providence may ordain—to the normal standards of peace-time budgeting.

Let me now address myself to a very brief exposition of the financial results of the year 1940-41. In our Revised Estimates for that year we had expected to end with a revenue deficit of a crore and 3 lakhs. The actual deficit turned out to be 91 lakhs. This improvement of 12 lakhs was brought about by a decrease of 40 lakhs in expenditure set off by a decrease of 28 lakhs in revenue receipts. Outside the Revenue Account, the surplus of 79 lakhs forecast in the Revised turned out in the end to be a deficit of 16 lakhs—a worsening of 95 lakhs. The combined effect of the improvement of 12 lakhs in the Revenue Section and the deterioration of 95 lakhs outside it was to reduce the closing balance by 83 lakhs. According to the Revised our closing balance was to have been a crore and 93 lakhs. The actual closing balance stood at a crore and 10 lakhs only.

Within the Revenue Account the deviations of the actuals from our Revised Estimates, viz., 28 lakhs on the Receipt side and 40 lakhs on the Expenditure side, represent only 2 per cent. and 3 per cent. respectively of the totals and I do not think I need trouble the House with the reasons for the variations under the several heads that account for these small deviations. The deterioration of 95 lakhs in the Debt Deposit Section of the budget, however, calls for a word of explanation. The Revised was framed on the assumption that Treasury Bills worth 75 lakhs would have to be issued in March, 1941, in order to maintain our minimum balance in the Reserve Bank during the first week of the month when central receipts would be cleared. An arrangement with the Central Government whereby the provincial share of the Income-tax receipts was paid at the beginning of March instead of on the last day as had previously been the practice, obviated the necessity for the issue of Treasury Bills. The absence of 75 lakhs of borrowed money accounts for the bulk of the worsening under Debt heads. The balance of the

deterioration is attributable to the fact that the recovery of agricultural loans and the realisation of education cess both fell somewhat below expectation on account of the unfavourable economic situation.

The year 1940-41, ended, as I have already observed, with a balance of a crore and 10 lakhs instead of a crore and 93 lakhs as estimated in the Revised. But whereas the balance according to the Revised Estimates was to have included 75 lakhs of borrowed money, the actual balance was entirely our own.

According to the Budget Estimate the current year was to start with an opening balance of a crore and 93 lakhs and to end with a closing balance of 33 lakhs. The Revised Estimate places the opening balance at a crore and 10 lakhs and the closing balance at a crore and 15 lakhs. Revenue receipts are expected to be a crore and 25 lakhs higher than the original estimate and expenditure on Revenue Account is likely to exceed the budget figure by 94 lakhs. Outside the Revenue Account, the budget provided for a deficit of 25 lakhs; but according to the Revised there will be a surplus of a crore and 9 lakhs, an improvement of 1 crore and 34 lakhs.

The increase of 82 lakhs in the closing balance is thus the net result of the following variations:—

a decrease of 83 lakhs in the opening balance;

an increase of 1 crore and 25 lakhs in our Revenue receipts set off by an increase of 94 lakhs in our expenditure on Revenue Account; and

finally, an improvement of a crore and 34 lakhs in the section outside Revenue Account.

It will be observed that budget forecasts for the current year have been considerably upset. The large deviations are due in part to the War and in part to domestic events which could not be foreseen when the budget was framed. The seasons in particular have been most unkind. Early in the year the *boro* paddy was severely affected by drought in a number of districts, while abnormally heavy rain in April and May inundated the low-lying areas in Eastern Bengal districts and did considerable damage to jute. On the 25th and 26th May a severe cyclone attended with heavy rain swept over the districts of Bakarganj, Noakhali and Tippera, causing terrible damage to crops and houses and a good deal of mortality among men and cattle. While heavy rain caused floods in the districts of Chittagong and Mymensingh, several districts in Western Bengal, notably Birbhum and Bankura, suffered badly from the effects of drought.

Considerable additional expenditure had to be incurred for the relief of distress caused by these natural calamities. Steps had to be taken to restore schools, thanas and other Government buildings damaged by

cyclone. Gratuitous relief had to be provided on a very large scale and considerable expenditure undertaken on the organisation of Test Relief works. Special loans were granted to poor middle-class non-agriculturists in the district of Bakarganj to enable them to rebuild their houses. Loans were also advanced to weavers and artisans who were in distress in other districts.

A further heavy drain on the provincial exchequer was caused by the protracted communal disturbances in the town and district of Dacca. The House is already well aware of the loss of life and of the widespread destruction of property that resulted from those tragic happenings and this afternoon I merely remind the House that the restoration of order, the relief of the victims, the enquiry into the causes of the riots and the trials of those apprehended have necessitated considerable additional expenditure from provincial revenues.

An important factor affecting our budgetary position for the current year was the passage of three measures of taxation, namely, the Sales Tax, the tax on Motor Spirit and the Raw Jute Sales Tax. These measures were passed in the middle of the year and no account could consequently be taken in the budget of the probable yield from these sources. It is now estimated that the revenue in the current year will be 25 lakhs from the Sales Tax, 2 lakhs from the Petrol Tax and 8 lakhs from the tax on sales of raw jute—a total of 35 lakhs in all. This will constitute a welcome and much-needed addition to our resources.

A further accretion of 31 lakhs to our Revenue receipts resulted from the sale in September last of the jute purchased in June and July of the previous year with the object of securing an adequate price level for the 1940 crop as it came up on the market. This of course is not really additional revenue but merely a conversion of assets into cash.

Let me now pass on to the effects of the war on the provincial budget. Two out of our main heads of revenue have been affected by the war in opposite directions. Income-tax receipts have improved owing mainly to the expansion of industrial activities as a result of the war. On the other hand, the yield from the export duty on jute has gone down considerably owing to further restriction of export facilities as a result of the recent developments in the Pacific.

By far the most serious effect of the war on the provincial budget however relates to the expenditure on A. R. P. and kindred emergency measures booked under the head "Extraordinary charges in India". This expenditure started unostentatiously in 1939-40. Immediately after the declaration of war the Provincial Government had to employ a Press Censor and other emergency staff, to intensify the measures for combating subversive activities and to finance propaganda in support of war measures. The expenditure amounted to 3 lakhs in 1939-40 and 7 lakhs in 1940-41, and the Central

Government agreed to meet these charges in their entirety. In the current year the total expenditure under "Extraordinary charges in India", for which provision was made in the budget, was only 7 lakhs and a half. Early in the year, however, it became evident that expenditure on A.R.P. was likely to reach a very much higher figure than seemed likely at first and in April last the Centre advised the Provinces that the growing scale of expenditure on A.R.P. measures combined with a deterioration in the financial position of the Centre as compared with that of the Provinces no longer justified the promised measure of liberality and the Centre found itself compelled to call on the Provinces to shoulder the major portion of "defence measures falling within the provincial field"; the Centre bearing merely 25 per cent. of it.

As a result however of discussions between representatives of the Centre and of the Government of Bengal in Simla in May last, it was decided to abandon the attempt to allocate the financial responsibility for A.R.P. measures on the basis of the constitutional position and the working arrangement then reached was that all A.R.P. expenditure would be shared between the Centre and the Provinces in the following proportions:—

(1) The first crore—half and half;

(2) All expenditure above a crore—the Centre would bear 75 per cent. and the Provinces 25 per cent.

As Bengal was not in a position to meet its share of the pooled expenditure out of current revenues, the Central Government agreed to make interest-free advances repayable over a period of 5 years.

In practice the Agreement did not work as well as was hoped because the scope of the Agreement had been insufficiently defined and action was frequently held up pending settlement of the question as to whether a particular item of expenditure would be poolable or not. After the declaration of War by Japan it was felt that a modification of the Agreement, or at any rate, an extension of its scope, was urgently needed in order that emergency measures of Civil Defence might not be delayed by arguments as to who should pay. The Centre, too, was in favour of a revision of the Agreement though on somewhat different grounds. In December last it became known that the amount of income-tax distributable to the Provinces would be some 2 crores in excess of what had been anticipated at the Budget stage. Upon this, the Government of India suggested that the amount of Central contribution payable to the Province in respect of A.R.P. expenditure in any year should be reduced by an amount equal to the amount by which the Province's receipts from income-tax in that year exceed the estimate of the provincial share in the Budget for 1941-42.

At the instance of the Government of India a conference was convened in Delhi to consider the question of revision of the Simla Agreement. This conference was attended by representatives from all Provinces and after careful deliberation it was decided that the allocation of Civil Defence expenditure between the Centre and the Provinces should be on the following lines:—

(1) The expenditure of each financial year will be treated separately.

(2) The expenditure of each year will be divided into slabs.

(3) The first slab, which will be fixed at approximately 4 per cent. of the provincial revenue after exclusion of "Adaptations" and certain other receipts, will be borne entirely by the Province.

(4) The second slab—of 50 lakhs—will be shared equally between the Centre and the Province.

(5) Of the third slab—also of 50 lakhs—75 per cent. will be allocated to the Centre and 25 per cent to the Province.

(6) All expenditure above this point will be allocated between the Centre and the Province in the proportion of 87½ per cent. for the Centre to 12½ per cent. for the Province

The rigidity of the Central Government's administrative control over A.R.P. measures initiated by Provinces will be relaxed, securing speedier disposal of cases, and the Central Government will henceforth act rather as a co-ordinating and advising authority. The list of items included in Civil Defence expenditure for the purposes of the allocation under the new agreement has been suitably enlarged and even in regard to marginal cases some freedom of action has been left to Provincial Governments.

Such in broad outline are the terms of our latest Agreement with India. Although the general principles of the Agreement are applicable uniformly to all Provinces, it was felt that the case of Bengal presented special features which called for individual treatment. In the first place owing to Bengal's proximity to the Eastern theatre of War the magnitude of her Civil Defence expenditure is far in excess of anything which is likely to be spent on this account by any other Province. Then again while other Provinces will reap the full benefit of the increased Income-tax receipts, Bengal's participation in the increase will be largely neutralised by the heavy decline in her receipts from the export duty on jute—a decline which is every bit as much attributable to the War as the enhanced yield from Income-tax. The House will be glad to know that the efforts of Bengal's representatives to secure proper appreciation of her special problems have met with success. The Government of India have agreed to give

Bengal special relief by fixing the Provincial slab of Civil Defence expenditure, both in the current year and in 1942-43, at a substantially lower level than 4 per cent. of our effective revenue. Four per cent. of our effective revenue amounts roughly to 50 lakhs. As against this the Provincial slab has been fixed at 25 lakhs for the current year and 37½ lakhs for 1942-43. We are duly grateful to the Centre for the relief granted to us, and we have every hope that the modified Agreement will result in more satisfactory and expeditious execution of emergent Civil Defence measures by the Province.

With these preliminary observations I shall now turn to an explanation of the variations in the current year's Revised.

The opening balance adopted in the Revised is the actual closing balance of the preceding year.

The improvement of about a crore and 25 lakhs in Revenue receipts is the net effect of variations spread over a large number of heads among which the most important are an increase of 58 lakhs under "Income-tax", 36 lakhs under "Other Taxes and Duties", 30 lakhs under "Agriculture", 14 lakhs under "Extraordinary Receipts" and 7 lakhs under "Excise", and a decline of 20 lakhs under "Jute Export Duty" and 6 lakhs under "Land Revenue". The increase under "Income-tax" and the decline under "Jute Export Duty" have been already explained. The increase under "Other Taxes and Duties" is due almost entirely to the proceeds of the new taxation measures previously mentioned which came into operation after the budget was passed. Under "Agriculture" the increase is due to the sale of jute which was purchased last year and kept in stock. Out of the increase of 14 lakhs under "Extraordinary Receipts" 9 lakhs represent an accounting adjustment designed to bring into the accounts certain securities transferred to Government by the Administrator-General and the Official Trustee. This will pass out of the balance by *per contra* debit to the cash balance investment account. The balance of the improvement under "Extraordinary Receipts" is due to an abnormal receipt of 6 lakhs from the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, in settlement of a long-pending dispute. The increase under "Excise" is accounted for by the fact that receipts under "Country Spirit" are likely to be larger than was originally anticipated. The decrease under "Land Revenue" occurs partly under "Fixed Collections" and partly under "Recovery on account of Survey and Settlement charges". The reduced yield under the first head is due to the adverse effect of floods and other natural calamities, that under the second is due to the postponement of the recovery programme in Dinajpur and Mymensingh owing to the unfavourable agricultural situation.

The increase of 94 lakhs in expenditure on Revenue Account is due mainly to heavy additional expenditure under the heads "Famine"

and "Extraordinary charges". Under "Famine" the budget contained the normal precautionary provision of about 2 lakhs and a half, but on account of the various calamities to which detailed reference has already been made it now appears that the expenditure under this head will be more than 30 lakhs. Similarly, under "Extraordinary charges" against the original provision of 7½ lakhs the revised estimate now stands at nearly 78 lakhs. This as already explained is merely the Provincial share of the expenses which in their totality amount to no less than a crore and 76 lakhs. Details of the expenditure on war emergency measures have been set forth in the Red Book and need not be recapitulated here. It will suffice if some of the more important items are singled out for individual mention. The Revised includes 15 lakhs for the temporary housing and feeding of persons rendered homeless by air attacks. Sixteen lakhs have been provided for an alternative water-supply in Calcutta by means of tube-wells. About 9 lakhs will be required for the expansion of the Calcutta Fire Brigade and 5 lakhs for fire-fighting services in industrial areas outside Calcutta. The protection of essential Government buildings and emergency hospitals by means of baffle-walls is estimated to cost 9 lakhs, and 10 lakhs will be required this year for the provision of emergency hospitals and motor ambulances for the treatment of persons injured in air raids.

It remains now to explain the improvement of one crore and 34 lakhs in the Debt Deposit Section of the budget. This improvement has been brought about as follows:—

The budget was framed on the assumption that Treasury Bills worth 75 lakhs would be issued in March, 1941, and repaid in the current year. Thanks to the earlier receipt of our share of the Income-tax pool it was not necessary to issue bills in March, 1941, and no Treasury Bills were carried forward from 1940-41 into the current year. In consequence there was a saving of 75 lakhs. A further assumption which was made when the budget was framed was that no Treasury Bills would have to be issued in the closing months of the current year. In point of fact, however, it is proposed to issue Treasury Bills for 1 crore in March, 1942. This unforecasted borrowing will increase our balance by a crore. Another item of borrowed money which will be in our hands at the close of the year and for which no credit was taken when the budget was framed will be the interest-free advance of 75 lakhs which the Central Government will make to enable us to meet the Provincial share of A.R.P. expenditure. The total improvement from these three causes amounts to 2 crores and a half. This is, however, partly neutralised by the very large amount of agricultural loans which had to be issued in the exceptional circumstances of the current year. The total of these loans exceeds our estimate by 1 crore and 11 lakhs. The net improvement in the Debt Deposit Section is 1 crore and 34 lakhs.

The estimated closing balance at the end of the current year is, as already stated, 1 crore and 15 lakhs. This however, contains 1 crore and 75 lakhs of borrowed money out of which 1 crore is in Treasury Bills and 75 lakhs is an advance from the Government of India. In point of fact therefore the effective closing balance is a negative figure of 60 lakhs.

I now come to the estimates for the coming year.

The year starts with an opening balance of 1 crore 15 lakhs which as I have already explained is the anticipated closing balance for the current year. Revenue receipts are placed at 15 crores 70 lakhs or 41 lakhs higher than the Revised. The estimate of expenditure on Revenue Account stands at 16 crores 75 lakhs which is 44 lakhs greater than the anticipated expenditure in the current year. On the basis of these estimates the deficit on Revenue Account amounts to 1 crore and 5 lakhs. Outside the Revenue Account the budget anticipates a net surplus of 69 lakhs The joint effect of the Revenue deficit of 1 crore 5 lakhs and the surplus of 69 lakhs in the Capital and Debt Deposit Section of the budget is to reduce the opening balance by 36 lakhs. The year is accordingly expected to end with a closing balance of 79 lakhs.

Such in broad outline are our budgetary prospects for the coming year. Let me now attempt to fill in the details.

The head of account under which the largest increase is expected is naturally, "Other taxes and Duties", under which the receipts from the three taxation measures brought into operation during the current year are credited. The receipts from these taxes will be for full 12 months in the coming year as against a few months only in the current year. The increase under this head is 1 crore and 7 lakhs. This forecast assumes that trade conditions in Calcutta and other important centres will not be seriously disorganised by air raids or other hostile activities. The other head under which we look for an appreciable increase is "Income-tax". On the assumption that industrial development stimulated by the war will proceed according to plan, receipts from Income-tax are expected to be 26 lakhs higher in the coming year. The improvement from these two sources is thus a crore and 33 lakhs. A large part however of this improvement is neutralised by decreases under other heads. Further restriction of transport facilities as a result of the recent developments in the Pacific are expected to reduce our receipts from "Jute Export Duty" by 35 lakhs. Under "Agriculture" there is a decrease of 32 lakhs owing mainly to the fact that the abnormal receipt which accrued this year from the sale of jute will not be repeated in the coming year. Another large decrease occurs under the head "Extraordinary Receipts". It will be recalled that the current year's receipts under this heading included first, an

acccounting adjustment designed to bring certan securities into the Government account, secondly, a lump payment by the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, in respect of some accretions to the Port area. These special receipts will not recur in the coming year. Recovery of War charges will also be smaller as very little of arrears will remain to be adjusted. These three factors are responsible for a total decrease of 20 lakhs.

As I have already stated, the budget provides for expenditure on Revenue Account 44 lakhs in excess of the revised estimates for the current year. That figure however is not the real measure of the additional provision included in the estimates for 1942-43. Hon'ble Members will recall that the revised estimates for the current year include at least one large abnormal charge that we hope we shall not be called upon to shoulder in the coming year. I refer to the very heavy expenditure, 30 lakhs in all, for the relief of distress caused by the cyclone in Eastern Bengal and the Dacca riots. The demand for 1942-43 under "Famine" is limited to the normal precautionary provision—2½ lakhs,—so that the additional provision I have to account for is not merely 44 lakhs but 44 plus 27½, *i.e.*, 71½ lakhs. An Appendix to the printed copy of this statement indicates the main heads of expenditure under which this additional provision is spread.

More than 60 per cent. of the increased provision will be found under the head "Extraordinary charges in India". The net expenditure debitable to Provincial revenues on account of Civil Defence measures in the coming year is 1 crore and 25 lakhs as against 78 lakhs in the current year, an increase of 47 lakhs.

Part of the balance of the additional provision also relates indirectly to the War or Civil Defence measure. For instance under "Ports and Pilotage" provision has been made for a contribution of 2 lakhs towards the establishment of a Home for the Indian Seamen in Calcutta. The need for such an institution has long been felt. The fruition of the scheme is due in no small measure to the sympathetic interest of His Excellency the Viceroy who has agreed to contribute 3 lakhs out of his War Purposes Fund for the provision of amenities for seamen in this Home.

The rest of the additional provision is spread over a number of heads, the more important being—Education, 6 lakhs; Public Health, 6 lakhs; Debt Conciliation, 3 lakhs; General Administration, Jails and Interest, 2 lakhs each.

An additional provision of 5 lakhs for grants to District School Boards for the development of Primary Education accounts for the great bulk of the increased provision under this head. Two years ago a programme for the progressive development of primary education under the Rural Primary Education Act was adopted and the additional

provision is needed to implement that programme. The current year's provision of one and a half lakhs for the advancement of education of members of the Scheduled Castes is repeated in the Budget. An extra 92 thousand rupees has been provided for the training of teachers for primary schools in accordance with a scheme initiated in January, 1940. Increased provision to the extent of 80 thousand rupees has been made for the repair of school buildings damaged by cyclone.

An item of expenditure in regard to which a final decision has not yet been reached relates to the grant payable in the coming year to the University of Calcutta. It will be recalled that as a result of the financial settlement with the University in 1937-38, a consolidated grant of 4 lakhs 85 thousand rupees per annum was agreed to for a period of 5 years with the stipulation that the position should be reviewed at the end of this period The financial position of the University is under review, and the grant admissible to the University next year will be settled on its completion. Government have however agreed to make such additional grant as may be required to meet the charges on account of the Department of Islamic Studies which has been recently organised by the University. Pending this settlement, the existing grant has been repeated for 1942-43.

The Public Health budget repeats the provision of 10 lakhs made in this year's budget for Rural Water Supply, 6 lakhs for free distribution of quinine and 2½ lakhs for anti-malaria schemes. It repeats the normal provision of half a lakh for maternity and child welfare schemes, half a lakh for anti-tuberculosis schemes and Rs.20,000 for anti-leprosy work. A special grant of Rs.35,000 has been provided for the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital which is doing such outstanding work for the relief of tuberculosis. Of this amount Rs.15,000 is a capital grant and the balance, Rs.20,000 is to enable the hospital to raise the number of free beds from 80 to 100. A sum of 2 lakhs 20 thousand has been provided for the much-needed improvement of Sadar Hospitals in many of which the standard of equipment and accommodation still leaves much to be desired.

The reorganisation of the Government Cinchona Factory and the Plantation has been undertaken in the current year with the sum of one lakh and a half voted by the Assembly for this purpose. The object of this reorganisation is to extend the cultivation of cinchona with a view to make Bengal less dependent upon outside sources for its quinine supplies. Until cultivation makes additional supplies of bark available, it is essential to ensure that our dwindling stocks shall not necessitate any curtailment in the free distribution of quinine by the Public Health Department and for this purpose a provision of 3¾ lakhs has been made in the budget for the purchase of 15,000 lbs. of quinine from outside.

An increased provision of 3½ lakhs has been made in the budget in order to allow for the establishment of an additional 207 Debt Conciliation Boards in the coming year.

In the Agricultural budget provision has been made for the continuance of the regulation and licensing of the area under Jute in the coming year at a total cost of approximately 33 lakhs. Provision has also been made for some small schemes of agricultural improvement which were considered to be urgent. Among these may be mentioned the distribution of improved varieties of seed among cultivators and the demonstration of improved methods of lac cultivation.

A lump provision of 1 lakh has been included in the budget for the promotion of communal harmony. Nothing is more regrettable or more calculated to wreck all plans for reconstruction than a spirit of antagonism between the communities whose duty it is to build up the amenities of civilised life in a spirit of mutual tolerance and co-operation. If the atmosphere in which we have to work is poisoned by communal hatred, our plans however well thought out, are foredoomed. It will be one of the foremost endeavours of the present Ministry to restore amity and understanding between the two great communities that have a common interest in the prosperity of the Province.

There are three items under Loans and Advances that call for individual mention. The first of these is a provision of 2 lakhs to facilitate the putting into operation of a scheme now rapidly maturing for the removal of beggars from Calcutta. The necessity for an immediate and energetic tackling of this long-standing problem has been brought home in recent months by the additional menace that this human flotsam, unfortunates and reprobates alike, represents in a large city under threat of air raids.

The next item is a provision of 7 lakhs for financing Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks in the Province. Five such banks established some years ago have hitherto been financed by the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank and a sum of 5 lakhs is outstanding on this account. It is proposed to establish five more land mortgage banks in the coming year. The making of long-term loans is not a proper function of the Provincial Co-operative Bank and it has been decided that Government will not only assume the responsibility for financing the new banks but will also arrange for the immediate repayment of the outstanding loan due by the existing banks. Provision has accordingly been made in the budget for 7 lakhs in all, namely, 5 lakhs to be made over to the Provincial Co-operative Bank and 2 lakhs for distribution to the ten land mortgage banks.

Let me now turn to the more important among the Civil Defence measures included in the budget. The total expenditure involved in these measures is a little over 4 crores. Out of this about 2 crores will be required for payment to the personnel of various A.R.P. services. Thirty-five lakhs have been provided for the construction of shelters, 15 lakhs for the relief of persons rendered homeless by air attacks and 49 lakhs for the supply of stirrup pumps, respirators, helmets and eye-shields. The balance of the expenditure amounting to about a crore is spread over a large number of items. Thus 9 lakhs are required for the Civil Nursing Scheme, 5 lakhs for the expansion of the Fire Brigade, 15 lakhs for the organisation of street Fire Fighting Services and 8 lakhs for the Rescue Service and 31 lakhs for hospital accommodation for Air Raid casualties in vulnerable areas. About 2 lakhs have been provided for mass inoculation against cholera and smallpox and 6 lakhs for the establishment of Infectious Diseases Hospitals. Further particulars will be found in the Red Book which will shortly be circulated to the members and my colleagues will in due course explain in fuller detail the nature and purpose of the various schemes for which provision has been made in the budget.

Let me now summarise the financial results of the working of the year according to the estimates now before the House Despite the exclusion of all proposals for new expenditure that could not be regarded as virtually unavoidable, the estimates anticipate a deficit on Revenue Account of 1 crore 5 lakhs The revenue deficit is more than accounted for by our Civil Defence expenditure which is estimated at a crore and 25 lakhs

But for this abnormal expenditure we would have had a small surplus. It may be asked whether this is all that the new taxes are expected to achieve when conditions once more return to normal. A certain amount of guarded optimism is permissible on this point. We have, as a result of the present abnormal times, lost heavily on our receipts from the export duty on jute Those receipts which reached the high level of 2 crores 38 lakhs in the first year of Provincial Autonomy and thereafter remained steady at 2 crores 21 lakhs for the next two years are not expected to exceed a crore and 25 lakhs in the coming year. Here then is a margin of nearly a crore on which we may reasonably bank when export facilities improve on the termination of the war. In the work of post-war reconstruction jute is sure to be in very great demand and this sturdy fibre which has stood us in such good stead in the past may again do so in future. I am not overlooking the fact that our receipts from Income-tax have gone up as a result of expanding war industries. But the current year is the last year of the first period of the Niemeyer Award and even in normal times 1942-43 would have seen a considerable increase in our receipts from this source. In these circumstances I see no reason to be unduly pessimistic over the large

deficit anticipated in the coming year despite the substantial accretion to our resources under the new measures of taxation.

A word now about the closing balance. The estimates, as I have said, provide for a closing balance of 79 lakhs. This balance, has, however, been built up with a large amount of borrowed money. The Revised Estimates for the current year provide for an advance of 75 lakhs from the Government of India for financing the Provincial share of Civil Defence expenditure. One-fifth of this advance will be repaid in the coming year leaving 60 lakhs of the loan for future repayment. A further advance of a crore and 25 lakhs from the Government of India will be required for the same purpose in the coming year. The total amount of loan money on our hands at the close of 1942-43 is thus expected to be a crore and 85 lakhs. This is no doubt heavy borrowing; but here again I see no cause for alarm. The terms on which this accommodation has been made available to us are most favourable. No interest will be charged and the repayment will be spread over five years. We may perhaps also draw some comfort from the knowledge that our assets in the shape of outstanding advances to agriculturists and others at the end of the coming year will amount to the substantial figure of 2 crores 26 lakhs in all. In addition to this we shall be holding securities worth 56 lakhs which may be converted for general purposes and further securities worth about 14 lakhs in the Famine Insurance Fund which can be utilised only for the purpose of relieving scarcity and distress. This completes the picture of the financial position as it is expected to be at the close of the budget year.

So far as the formal presentation of the estimates for the coming year is concerned I have done, but before I resume my seat I should like to say a few words about the serious handicaps which attended the framing of the Budget. It is only two months since the present Ministry took office and it had barely three weeks in which to formulate its budget proposals. Even in normal years three weeks would not be sufficient for this purpose and in times such as those in which we have been called upon to shoulder the burden of office it was obviously out of the question for the Ministry to formulate any more detailed plan than that which I have indicated at the beginning of this statement. Nor must it be forgotten that what a Ministry assuming office at the fag-end of the year takes over is not a clean slate but a running concern with all its commitments, good and bad. Some of these commitments may well call for reconsideration and revision in the wider interest of the Province. I can assure the House that if on further scrutiny we are of opinion that it will be in the best interests of the Province to revise any such commitment, that revision will be undertaken.

Communal discord has in recent years marred the good name of the Province. The Ministry is pledged to carry on its administration in a

manner which will be just and fair to all communities and interests; for so alone can confidence in the *bona fides* of Government be restored. It is the intention of the Ministry to approach its problems not in any spirit of partisanship but in a spirit of sympathy and understanding. It will endeavour to carry forward its programme with the maximum support of all sections of the people.

Bengal has had a great past. Even today with the good-will of all parties it is possible to start a new chapter of glory and greatness in the history of this Province. Mutual distrust and suspicion have cast a shadow on the life of the Province. In spite of differences and disputes, there are many fields of activity where Hindus, Muslims and Christians, Indians and Europeans, can work hand in hand for the advancement of the common welfare of Bengal. If we genuinely differ on certain points, let us learn to respect such mutual differences and keep them in the background for the time being. With the war so perilously near our home—a war which must be won if we are to save our heritage—and with great problems of national reconstruction calling for united and devoted labour in the fields of Health and Education, Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, let all parties represented in the legislature decide wholeheartedly to stand shoulder to shoulder for the advancement of those essential schemes of national defence and welfare on which our very existence depends. It is a sense of common danger that unites contending parties to work together for the common weal. If our ideals do not clash, let us not worry about minor differences. If we once inculcate the habit of working together in a spirit of harmony and understanding on vital matters on which we agree, keeping out of our consideration for the time being other matters on which we do not agree, not only shall we help definitely to advance the cause of progress but what is more important, remove for ever the dark and dangerous clouds of distrust and suspicion which stand in the way of national solidarity and lie at the root of India's relationship with England. Conscious though I am of the limitations imposed by the Constitution, with hope and confidence I ask all sections of the House and also of the public to strengthen the hands of the new Ministry and to give it a chance to serve the real needs of the Province, whose welfare must be the first and foremost concern of every man and woman residing in Bengal, and must be placed above considerations of personal gain or of party interest.

Singapore, which we were taught to regard as impregnable, has fallen and in the words of the British Prime Minister we meet under the shadow of heavy and far-reaching military defeat. The situation in the Far East, much nearer our home than the seat of the British Government in England, presents problems of momentous concern and anxiety to us all. It will be idle for me to conceal from you that I fully share your feeling and that of many people outside the House

that my Budget Statement is somewhat out of touch with the realities of the present grave situation. It is not any want of anxiety on the part of my colleagues and myself to serve the people, not even, if I may venture to add, our want of capacity that stand in the way of satisfactorily dealing with the urgent problems of national defence and economic stability that must be solved immediately if Bengal is to be saved. But it is the framework of the constitution which does not afford the right to the representatives of the people of this country to deal effectively with these vital matters in a time of national emergency. Today let us not quarrel about past differences, let us not waste time in blaming each other or in merely regretting how valuable time has been lost. Let us emphasise the supreme fact that the Indian mass-consciousness remains yet to be stirred to its depth to meet the urgent call of the hour, that the Indian deadlock has to be solved with the least possible delay, that Indians have to be trusted implicitly and the power of shaping and administering national policy in time of War must be handed over to Indians, that the Indian Army and the Air Force have to be strengthened and conditions of recruitment thereto as well as the provisions of the Arms Act suitably modified, that the productive capacity of India has to be increased in a most comprehensive manner—all in the paramount interest of Indian defence. When I speak of India I necessarily place Bengal, which is in the danger zone much more than any other province today, in the forefront. When England clasped the hand of Russia, she did so in spite of bitter differences with her in the past. She did so because both were determined to fight a dangerous common enemy. India—and I add, all shades of public opinion in this great province—detest the totalitarian rule. British statesmen must realise before it is too late that the opponents of yesterday can well become the friends of today and to-morrow only if the correct approach is made to the Indian problem without reservation. I re-echo the utterance of the British Prime Minister that this is one of those moments when the nation can show its quality and its genius, that this is one of those moments when it can draw from the heart of misfortune the vital impulse of victory. He reminds us with that calm determination which has characterised his premiership in relation to the affairs of his own country that this is another occasion to show that we can meet reverses with dignity and with renewed accessions of strength. What we want today is nothing more and nothing less than that those serious obstacles which are standing in the way of India's showing to the fullest height her quality and genius and attaining full accession of national strength to combat a powerful common foe should be immediately removed by the British Prime Minister himself, so as to enable Indians to pursue their own national policy and fearlessly to defend their hearth and home, both actively and passively, against any foreign aggression as also to maintain internal peace and security at this hour of national crisis.

APPENDIX I.

[Figures are in thousands.]

	Actuals, 1940-41.	1941-42. Budget.	1941-42. Revised.	Budget, 1942-43.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts.				
Opening Balance ..	2,16,67	1,92,58	1,09,51	1,14,73
Revenue Receipts ..	13,54,50	14,03,14	15,28,53	15,69,79
Receipts from Debt Heads ..	17,20,81	17,96,69	24,08,36	18,63,39
Total ..	32,91,98	33,92,41	40,46,40	35,47,91
Expenditure.				
Revenue Expenditure ..	14,45,39	15,37,38	16,31,54	16,75,38
Capital Expenditure ..	−2,91	−2,71	−2,93	−2,38
Expenditure on Debt Heads ..	17,39,99	18,24,83	23,03,06	17,96,17
Closing Balance ..	1,09,51	32,91	1,14,73	78,74
Total ..	32,91,98	33,92,41	40,46,40	35,47,91
Net result.				
Surplus+ Deficit− On Revenue Account ..	−90,89	−1,34,24	−1,03,01	−1,05,59
Surplus+ Deficit− Outside Revenue Account	−16,27	−25,43	+1,08,23	+69,60
Total.				
Surplus+ Deficit− Excluding Opening Balance	−1,07,16	−1,59,67	+5,22	−35,99

APPENDIX II.

Statement showing the distribution of increased expenditure in 1942-43.

[Figures are in thousands.]

	Revised, 1941-42.	Budget, 1942-43.	Increase.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Interest on Debt and other obligations ..	18,59	20,67	2,08
General Administration—General Administration	1,61,34	1,63,10	1,76
General Administration—Debt Conciliation	20,00	23,50	3,50
Jails and Convict Settlements ..	46,36	48,76	2,40
Ports and Pilotage	5,12	6,86	1,74
Education—General	1,73,39	1,79,70	6,31
Public Health	42,98	48,48	5,50
Industries—Cinchona	8,29	12,90	4,61
Extraordinary charges in India ..	78,25	1,25,29	47,04
		Total ..	74,94

(At this stage the House was adjourned for ten minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I draw your attention to one question? It has been the custom as far as I remember for the last twenty years that after the budget has been presented, the House is adjourned till the time of the general discussion to enable the members to study the budget so that they may be in a position to take part in the general discussion. We find today from the notice that has been circulated that the House is expected to meet on all the intervening days before the general discussion. May I, Sir, through you request the Hon'ble Leader of the House to consider this point?

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish to take up one or two items on the agenda first and then shall take up your point.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Before you take up this matter, may I submit to you to consider the position of the supplementary budget if we were to get the House adjourned as it is proposed by Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin. I also feel that there is a precedent and that there is considerable force in what he has suggested. If we adjourn the House after tomorrow's presentation of the supplementary budget, we may be able to utilise the intervening time for both.

Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, in pursuance of rule 114 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, I beg to present to the Bengal Legislative Assembly the report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Government of Bengal for the year 1939-40 and the Audit Reports thereon.

Demands for Excess Expenditure, 1939-40.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, I beg to present to the Assembly the demand in respect of expenditure incurred in excess of grants and appropriations in 1939-40 The excess occurred under three heads namely, "Registration," "Port and Pilotage" and "Education" The reasons for these excesses have been set forth in the memorandum which will shortly be put in the hands of hon'ble members. These reasons were duly considered by the Public Accounts Committee and the recommendations of the Committee are that a vote of the Assembly be passed to regularise the voted excess under "Registration" and that the excess in respect of the charged appropriations under the other two heads be regularised by His Excellency the Governor. These recommendations will be found in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee which has just been presented to the Assembly.

Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts, 1940-41.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, section 169 of the Government of India Act requires that the reports of the Auditor-General relating to the accounts of the province are to be laid before the Provincial Legislature. These reports, as the House is aware, are in two parts, viz., the Finance Accounts and the Appropriation Accounts. The Finance Accounts for 1940-41 have been received from the Auditor-General but the Appropriation Accounts for that year and the Audit Report thereon are not yet ready. The

Auditor-General has intimated that the certificate of audit of the accounts of the transactions of the Government of Bengal in the United Kingdom during 1940-41 has not yet been received by him from the Auditor in England of Indian Home Accounts. The delay is presumably due to the exigencies of war. It is not possible for the Auditor-General in these circumstances to record his audit certificate in the Appropriation Accounts for 1940-41 and to submit it to the Governor as required by section 169 of the Government of India Act. Government have all along desired that the Appropriation Accounts and the Audit Report should be placed before the Legislature prior to presentation of the budget. In fact, a promise to this effect was given in 1939. In view however of what has been stated before, it is not possible to fulfil this promise. In partial compliance with the provisions of section 169 of the Government of India Act therefore I beg to place before the House the Finance Accounts for 1940-41 and the Audit Report, 1941, with the assurance that the Appropriation Accounts for 1940-41 and the Audit Report thereon will be laid before the House as early as possible after its receipt from the Auditor-General.

Amendments to the Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I beg to lay the amendments to the Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, on the Table.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Bengal Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bengal Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

(The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I beg also to move that the Bengal Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

(1) Mr. Abdul Wahab Khan,

(2) Mr. Syed Mustagawsal Haque,

(3) Maulvi Azhar Ali,

(4) Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose,

(5) Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar,

(6) Mr. Atul Chandra Sen,

(7) Mr. Amrita Lal Mandal,

(8) Mr. D. N. Sen,

(9) Mr. D. Gladding,

(10) Mr. H. Rowan Hodge,

(11) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Aulad Hossain Khan,

(12) Mr. Mirza Abdul Hafiz,

(13) Maulvi Zahur Ahmed Choudhury,

(14) Mr. Syed Abdul Majid,

(15) Mr. Puspajit Barma, and

(16) the mover,

with instructions to submit their report by March 1, 1942, the number of members forming the quorum being five.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. It is exactly with regard to a matter like this that Sir Nazimuddin raised his point a few minutes ago. May we submit that in view of the objections raised, the other portions of the business relating to legislation be postponed and only such formal matters as would not require any application of the minds of the members of the House be proceeded with like the placing on the table the Motor Vehicles Rules, etc.?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is only a Select Committee matter at this stage.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Even then, we do not know what exactly the Bill is like, and whether the Select Committee is to be acceptable to the House or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: The present Government has decided that the Finance Bill should be introduced and it is only a preliminary motion for reference to Select Committee.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a Bill which was first framed by the previous Government and is likely to be accepted by the——

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Opposition and the Government agree.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are you, Sir, taking it up then?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In that case we will have formally to oppose the procedure adopted. I would also refer you to the point raised by Sir Nazimuddin in this connection.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must finish it today, because it has nothing to do with the main Finance Bill.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You can finish instead some other legislative measures. The question is whether it should be left to Government's choice or whether it is a privilege of the House. Sir Nazimuddin has submitted that it has been all along the practice for the last 20 years that after the Budget is presented, no legislative work is taken up till the general discussion of the Budget so that members may be free to apply their minds to the Budget. You are permitting a deviation from that long established procedure.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not permitting any deviation whatsoever.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: You are, Sir, by taking up this Bill and referring it to a Select Committee subjecting this House to a commitment of the principles underlying the Bill.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Dr. Sanyal's proposition really depends on the main proposition raised by Sir Nazimuddin, the Leader of the Opposition, namely, whether the House should now adjourn until the general discussion of the Budget takes place. So far as that matter is concerned it is the intention of Government that we should proceed with this formal business and finish it as early as possible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I find in the notice given that there are two Bills which have come as passed by the Council and under our rules these Bills must have precedence over any other Bills being introduced because those Bills, being at a stage farther than the new Bill, should be disposed of first.

Mr. SPEAKER: I propose to take up the business of the House as proposed by Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, Sir, you cannot do that. The more mature Bills should be taken up first.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as Government Bills are concerned, Government can take them up in any order they like.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee that the Bengal Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

(1) Mr. Abdul Wahab Khan,

(2) Mr. Syed Mustagawsal Haque,

(3) Maulvi Azhar Ali,

(4) Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose,

(5) Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar,

(6) Mr. Atul Chandra Sen,

(7) Mr. Amrita Lal Mandal,

(8) Mr. D. N. Sen,

(9) Mr. D. Gladding,

(10) Mr. H. Rowan Hodge,

(11) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Aulad Hossain Khan,

(12) Mr. Mirza Abdul Hafiz,

(13) Maulvi Zahur Ahmed Choudhury,

(14) Mr. Syed Abdul Majid,

(15) Mr. Puspajit Barma, and

(16) the mover,

with instructions to submit their report by March 1, 1942, the number of members forming the quorum being five, was then put and agreed to.

Programme of Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Bill is a long Bill and it cannot be taken up for the present. I should like to know what is the purpose of this Bill?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: The operation of this Act extends for two years more.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then there are only two short items before the general discussion of the Budget comes up: one is the supplementary demands and the other is the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Bill. Now comes up the question of adjustment as to whether the supplementary demands should be placed first to-morrow or the day after.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, my papers are not ready as regards the supplementary demands. So far as I know you have fixed the election of the Deputy Speaker for day after to-morrow. We can have both these items on that day.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think we can have both the supplementary demand and the Agricultural Debtors Bill the day after to-morrow as well as the election of the Deputy Speaker. This Bill has been passed by the Council in exactly the same form in which we passed it except that the period of operation has been changed from "five" to "seven" years. I think it can be taken up to-day and finished in five minutes.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: What we are now called on to do is creating a very dangerous precedent and I seriously say that during the last 20 years this procedure has never been adopted.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any harm if we take up the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Bill to-day? It is after all a minor thing.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You can well see, Sir, that we cannot take up a Bill to which we have not yet applied our minds. We see no harm however in taking up a non-contentious matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are saying something contradictory to what Sir Nazimuddin has said. Sir Nazimuddin says that it is creating a bad precedent. Therefore I was suggesting a date but you are protesting against something which I never said.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you are doing that. You did not hear me properly and I think you were sleeping.

I suggest that we take up after finishing the voting on the supplementary demands the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Bill on the 26th which will take only a few minutes. That means that for the 18th we have no work except the election of the Deputy Speaker. I think there is no technical difficulty to change the date fixed for the supplementary demands which depends on the discretion of His Excellency the Governor, if all sections of the House agree and Government takes the responsibility. We need not then meet to-morrow but meet the day after to-morrow for the election of the Deputy Speaker and for the supplementary demand for which we get practically the whole day.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I think there will be no objection.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How can you change the programme already fixed by the Governor?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: You can leave that to us.

Mr. SPEAKER: The position, therefore, is that with the consent of all parties in the House it has been suggested that we need not meet in the afternoon. There are certain sections, specially the European Group, who are really in difficulties in view of the present emergent conditions under which they have to work and they presented their point of view. We agreed to meet from 9 to 12 in winter and from 8 to 12 in summer. After discussion with all parties we have come to the conclusion that for the time being we may meet at 8-30, except day after to-morrow when we meet at 9 o'clock for the election of the Deputy Speaker after finishing the business of the House—the presentation of Supplementary Demands.

Therefore, the programme is that there will be no meeting of the Assembly till we meet on the 20th except day after to-morrow when we meet at 9 o'clock for the presentation of the Supplementary Demands and the election of the Deputy Speaker.

The House stands adjourned till 9 a.m. day after to-morrow.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 5-56 p.m. till 9 a.m. on Wednesday, the 18th February, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the "Assembly House," Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 18th February, 1942, at 9 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 200 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Demonstrators appointed under Agriculture Department since April, 1938.

*12. **Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many demonstrators have been appointed in the Agriculture Department since 1st April, 1938; and

(*b*) how many of them are—

(*i*) Muslims,

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes, and

(*iii*) Caste Hindus?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) 188.

(*b*) (*i*) 100.

(*ii*) 17.

(*iii*) 61; besides these, ten posts have been filled up by members of other minority communities.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the proportion of the Scheduled Castes has not been maintained?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that he has counted minority community among the Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Enquiry into the allegations against Police in Dinajpur.

***13. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department been drawn to the speech regarding high-handedness and vagaries of police in the Dinajpur district? (Pages 44 to 47 of the Assembly Proceedings, Vol. LIX, No. 4.)

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any enquiry has been made into the allegations?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the results thereof?

(*d*) If no enquiry has been made as yet, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*e*) In view of the remarks made by Mr. G. B. Synge, I.C.S., the District and Session Judge of Dinajpur, referred to in the aforesaid speech, does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate making a sifting enquiry into the allegations?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The enquiry reveals that there were no excesses on the part of the police.

(*d*) and (*e*) Do not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to question (*e*), *viz.*, "in view of the remarks made by Mr. G. B. Synge, I.C.S., that the case was a fabricated one", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he thinks it desirable that there should be a further enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I will look into the matter. As a matter of fact I was dealing with the file only a few days ago and I have not been able to go through the remarks. I shall let you know later on.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who made the enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot say off-hand.

Agricultural loan and gratuitous relief in certain districts.

***14. Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state what sums have been granted during the current financial year as—

(*a*) agricultural loan in the districts of Burdwan, Hooghly, Midnapore, Howrah, Birbhum and Bankura; and

(*b*) gratuitous relief in the districts of Bakarganj and Noakhali?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE, JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee):

			Rs.
(*a*)	Burdwan	... ...	4,45,000
	Hooghly	... ...	2,32,500
	Midnapore	... ...	2,18,000
	Howrah	... ...	54,500
	Birbhum	... ...	6,50,000
	Bankura	... ...	4,00,000
(*b*)	Bakarganj	... ...	4,13,300
	Noakhali	... ...	2,25,000

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there has been any further requisition for gratuitous relief for the district of Noakhali?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I believe so.

Pasture ground for grazing of cattle.

***15. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department aware of the agitation for reservation of pasture ground in the Khasmahal area or reserved protected forest, Chittagong?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he has taken in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the FOREST and EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath Barman): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The member is referred to the reply given to portion (*b*) of his question No. 93 of the last budget session. The grazing committee referred to therein has since been appointed; but they have not yet submitted their report.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the committee was appointed and when is it likely to submit its report?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I cannot give the exact date as to when the committee was appointed but the committee is nearing completion of its work.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the committee was appointed?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already answered that.

Prohibition in Chittagong.

***16. Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department be pleased to state whether he contemplates introduction of prohibition in the district of Chittagong?

(*b*) If so, when?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: (*a*) Yes; partial prohibition in certain parts of the district.

(*b*) From 1st April, 1942.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Enforcement of Shops and Establishment Act, 1940, in Chittagong.

***17. Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether the Shops and Establishment Act, 1940, would be enforced in the town of Chittagong in the near future?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the exact date of its enforcement?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR and EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): (*a*) The question is under consideration. The opinion of local officers has also been invited.

(*b*) and (*c*) The Act came into force only with effect from 1st April, 1941. We want to have some experience of the working of a measure of this kind, before it is decided to extend its application. Many questions and difficulties are constantly coming up for consideration and need elucidation. There is also the question of staff. Already a Chief Inspector and 12 Inspectors have been appointed for the administration of the Act in the Calcutta area; some experience has been gained, and a further reorganisation is under consideration. The Act can be extended to other areas by notification, and we shall extend it as soon as it is clear that conditions for such extension are suitable, and the machinery for the administration of the Act has been perfected.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: With reference to answers (*b*) and (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what conditions he considers desirable for extension of the operation of the Act in the district?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That is also under consideration.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In the answer it has been stated "we shall extend it as soon as it is clear that conditions for such extension are suitable". Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what conditions he thinks suitable for the extension of the operation of the Act?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not prepared to express any opinion without considering all the matters.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is the Hon'ble Minister's reply, *viz.*, "as soon as it is clear that conditions for such extension are suitable". I want to know what conditions he thinks suitable?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I have nothing more to add.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: When the Hon'ble Minister answered the question by saying "as soon as it is clear that the conditions are suitable", he had nothing in mind as to which conditions are suitable and which are not.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot say that.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can ask supplementary question if you like.

Mrs. NELLIE SEN GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that when I asked him as to when the Shop Assistants Bill would come into operation in Chittagong, a statement was made by the late Hon'ble Minister that he could not do anything in Chittagong until March, 1942, earliest?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I know that the Act will be gradually extended to Chittagong and other places.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question was: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the late Hon'ble Minister made a statement in the House to the effect that Chittagong would come under the operation of this Act by March, 1942?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of that I was not in the Assembly then. I shall look into it.

Suffering of press employees from lead poisoning.

***18. Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department aware that many employees of the East India Printing Press, Baptist Mission Press, Caledonian Press, Edinburgh Press, Newman & Co. and Press, Thacker Spink Company, Andrew Yule Company, City Press, P. M. Bagchi Press, Mercantile Press, Calcutta Printing Company, Lalchand Press and Newspaper and other presses have been suffering from lead poisoning?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Surgeons of the Government Factories Department visited the abovementioned presses during the period from September, 1940, to October, 1941, to examine the persons suffering from lead poisoning?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of the persons examined; and

(*ii*) nature and results of the examination?

(*d*) If no one was examined, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) I am not aware of any cases of lead poisoning in printing presses.

(*b*) No visits were paid by the Certifying Surgeon of Factories to printing presses (other than the Government of Bengal Press and the Government Secretariat Press) for the purposes of examining persons with respect to lead poisoning.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) The necessity to examine printing press workers for lead poisoning was not a statutory duty until the advent of the new Bengal Factories Rules, 1940, i.e., until October, 1940. The additional work thus imposed on the Certifying Surgeon is exceedingly heavy and the requisite arrangements and routine are only now being established. Owing to the protracted illness and subsequent leave and retirement early in April last of the Certifying Surgeon, Dr. H. C. Pownes, it has not been possible to make a start with this work earlier, but Dr. Pownes' successor (Dr. A. Prodhan) has recently been appointed and the work of examining printing press employees for lead poisoning will commence.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are any other ways of knowing the causes of lead poisoning?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether account has been taken of the number of cases of lead poisoning which the Workmen's Compensation Board has to deal with?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: No such cases have come to our notice. I want further notice about this question.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken to find out whether there are cases of lead poisoning in the printing press?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: No steps, as far as I am aware, except that the Surgeon visited only the Government and the Secretariat Press. No such cases were reported to him. As a matter of fact no such cases were reported to us also.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made of the Labour Commissioner or the Factory Inspector to find out whether cases of lead poisoning were known to them or not?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: None that I know of.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of finding out from the Labour Commissioner, the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Bengal, and the Factory Inspector how many cases have been either dealt with by them or reported to them during the period under reference?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I shall make an enquiry.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether lead poisoning is a fell disease? (Loud laughter.)

(No answer.)

Recruitment of Assistant Executive Engineers.

***19. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state, year by year, the number of Assistant Executive Engineers in the Irrigation Branch directly recruited from (1) Hindus and (2) Muslims in 1939, 1940 and 1941 up till now?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of recruiting more Assistant Executive Engineers directly in near future when required?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed):

(*a*) 1939—None.

1940—2 Hindus; 2 Muslims.

1941—2 Hindus; 1 Muslim.

(*b*) Yes.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether during the period in question any Assistant Executive Engineer has been recruited in the Public Works Branch?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Construction of a dam on Mrigi Khal between Khunnabazar and Fatiamari in Mymensingh.

***20. Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN (Mymensingh):** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that crops of thousand bighas of cultivated lands are damaged every year by flood and water-hyacinth owing to the existence of Mrigi Khal passing between Khunna and Fatiamari and other villages of police-station Sherpur of Jamalpur subdivision in Mymensingh district; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate the construction of a dam on the gaps of Mrigi Khal between Khunna Bazar and Fatiamari village to prevent water-hyacinth and flood entering into the crop fields?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) No, except in the old bed of the Mrigi Khal which is a spill channel of the Brahmaputra —the old bed having been prematurely brought under cultivation.

(*b*) No, as it will prevent the natural reclamation of the low area by silt deposit and adversely affect public health and productivity of the soil.

Re-excavation of the Bemorta Khal and the Bhairab river.

***21. Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state the present stage of the re-excavation of the—

(*a*) Bemorta Khal; and

(*b*) the Bhairab river between Alipur and Jatrapur in the Khulna district?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) A scheme for the improvement of the Bemorta Khal has already been sanctioned. The work is to be started this cold weather.

(*b*) The worst portions of the Bhairab river (now called the Alaipur Khal) between Alaipur and Jatrapur, are being silt-cleared to a bed width of 9 feet with a view to improving the facilities for navigation

by small boats. The work is nearing completion. The question of further improvement so as to provide facilities for navigation by bigger boats is under consideration.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the scheme was sanctioned?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry, Sir, I could not give the exact time.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he means by "this cold weather".

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: This cold weather means this cold weather.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: That is over.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Not yet over.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*b*) where it is stated "the question of further improvement so as to provide facilities for navigation by bigger boats is under consideration", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under whose consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Under consideration of Government.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the work has been started at all?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I could not tell you off-hand.

Steps against recurring of floods in West Bengal.

*22. **Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether there had been during the months of September, and October, 1941, floods in the districts of Burdwan, Hooghly, Howrah, Midnapore and Bankura?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the immediate cause of this flood in the respective districts; and

(*ii*) what steps, if any, the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) The immediate cause was abnormally excessive rainfall.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: On a point of order, Sir. We seek your protection. Is this the way of answering questions? When we want to know the cause of any flood, the Hon'ble Minister answers "due to excessive rainfall", as if in his opinion because it is due to rainfall the flood cannot be checked or stopped. But we want to know——.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a question of order. Even if Government is entirely wrong in its view, I cannot help it.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: We seek your protection.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot give you protection. There might be two opinions on a fact. The Government view may be entirely wrong. It may be something more than that. But so long as an answer is there I cannot step in and say that the Government is right or wrong.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: If there is evasiveness on the part of Government, do you think that it is the Speaker's duty to clarify the situation?

Mr. SPEAKER: The members can put supplementary questions.

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the river is not able to drain away the water because it has silted up and whether that is not the main reason why floods have occurred?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am going through the whole irrigation work and I have asked the Executive Engineers to supply me with facts as to how the work should be taken up. I am

not going to give any evasive reply. I am not responsible for what was done in the past, but so far as the future is concerned, I shall place before the House the plan of the Irrigation Department as a whole.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: With reference to answer (*b*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he means that no possible steps could be taken by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: We have not been able to find any means by which excessive rainfall can be stopped.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Cannot the flood be stopped by drainage so that the crops may not be damaged?

(Many members stood up and began to put questions simultaneously.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order, if half a dozen members ask questions simultaneously, how is it possible for me to control the House or to give instructions?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I was enquiring whether it was possible by means of drainage or some other kind of irrigation project to stop the damage to crops, even if there was excessive rainfall. That was my question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Even if rainfall could not be stopped!

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Government will certainly consider how best to stop the damage to crops.

Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to undertake any comprehensive scheme to stop the flood?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: The question has already been answered.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he proposes to make a statement on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: When the Irrigation Budget comes before the House I shall make a full statement.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Maintenance of Communal Ratio Rules in Provincial Judicial Service.

12. Mr. DHANANJOY ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many appointments are likely to be made in the Provincial Judicial Service this year; and

(*ii*) whether the said appointments will be made on Communal Ratio Rules?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number to be recruited from the Scheduled Castes?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of Scheduled Caste candidates seeking interviews before the Public Service Commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (*a*) (*i*) 38.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) The number will be 15 per cent. of the total number of recruitment provided qualified candidates are available.

(*c*) By the courtesy of the Public Service Commission I am able to say that altogether 24 candidates applied from the Scheduled Caste community and of these ten were actually interviewed.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is willing to delete the old hackneyed words "provided qualified candidates are available"?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: No Government, whether the present Government or the Government it has succeeded, can make a pernicious rule, but so far as this rule is concerned, it is embodied in the communal ratio rules: and whether or not the communal ratio rules will be altered is a question not entirely for the Government but for the Legislature and the country as well.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*) "Yes", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the old communal ratio rules which were not placed before the Legislature but framed by the then Government are to be followed in this case or any new communal ratio rules that the Legislature will have a right and opportunity——.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to say that this supplementary question does not fall within the department of the Minister concerned. His department is bound to carry out the rules which have been framed by another department of Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister has just now given us a homily on the position of the communal ratio rules and it is only as a sequel to that observation that I have asked this question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I realise that, but the Hon'ble Minister is not competent to answer it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the application of the communal ratio rules the department of which he has got the charge at the present moment is going to follow the position that if suitable Scheduled Caste candidates are not forthcoming in Bengal candidates from outside Bengal will be imported?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: We will not allow Scheduled Caste candidates from outside Bengal to be imported.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Amongst the Scheduled Caste candidates how many have been recommended by the Public Service Commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: As the matter is now under consideration, I shall not at this stage be in a position to give a reply.

Mr. NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় অনুগ্রহ করে জানাবেন কি অন্যের বেলায় যখন qualifiedএর question উঠেনি তখন একমাত্র Schedule Castesএর বেলায় এই question বিশেষভাবে প্রযুক্ত হওয়ার কারণ কি?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is contemplating any change in the communal ratio rules so as to remove the word "qualified" from those rules?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I submit that it can arise in this way. An honourable member has put a supplementary question to the Hon'ble Minister enquiring whether the word "qualified" which was introduced by the previous Government should be retained in the answer. The Hon'ble Minister at that stage replied that it was a matter for the Legislature. Subsequently, however, it has appeared that it is a matter absolutely for the Government and my question is whether Government is contemplating removing the word "qualified" from the rules because that is within the jurisdiction of Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question which concerns all the departments of Government and can be answered by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. The only answer that the Hon'ble Minister at present concerned can give must relate to his own department. I suggest that the present supplementary question be tabled as a fresh question notice of which should be given to the Minister in charge of the communal ratio rules.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, my point is whether the Hon'ble Minister concerned is going to recommend to the Government as a whole to change the word "qualified" with a view to deleting it from the communal ratio rules?

(No reply.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. You have just observed that that should be addressed to the Chief Minister. Am I right in taking that the Chief Minister would not be the proper person because it is the Finance Minister who is connected with such matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, Dr. Sanyal, you did not hear me. What I said is that if any answer has to be given by Government as a whole it has to be given by the Chief Minister unless there is departmental distribution in which case the Minister concerned can reply on behalf of Government.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is going to appoint an unqualified candidate?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: No, Sir.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে দশজন Candidate কে interview দেওয়া হয়েছিল, Call করা হয়েছিল, তাদের requisite qualification ছিল কি না ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Who interviewed?

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: The Public Service Commission.

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of taking in Scheduled Caste candidates when they are educationally qualified but are disqualified by reason of overage?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The question of overage was considered by the past Government and in certain cases condonation of age was allowed.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in this case the applicants who were not granted interviews were considered to be disqualified simply because of their overage to the extent of three or four years?

Mr. SPEAKER: He cannot answer that question.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় দয়া করে বলবেন কি যে তিনি যে আটজন Candidate কে interviewর জন্য Call করেছিলেন তাদের requisite qualification আছে কি না ?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the present Government is considering the desirability of compensating the sin of the past Government by promoting a relation of Mr. Pramatha Ranjan Thakur?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Agricultural loan to Mulagram Union Board, Kasba, Tippera.

13. Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether he has recently received any petition from the inhabitants of No. 1 Mulagram Union Board, police-station Kasba, Tippera, for grant of relief and agricultural loans?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action do the Government contemplate to take in the matter?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the said union is the most low-lying place in the thana;

(*ii*) that the standing crops have failed this year; and

(*iii*) that the people of the area are in acute distress?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps do the Government propose taking for giving relief to the people till the next harvesting season?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (*a*) A petition was received from certain villagers of village Kasba, police-station Kasba.

(*b*) A report has been called for from the Collector of Tippera.

(*c*) (*i*) Some of the villages in the union are low-lying.

(*ii*) Jute and *aus* crops of those villages have failed, and *aman* paddy has been damaged to the extent of 50 per cent.

(*iii*) The distress has been relieved to a great extent.

(*d*) Steps have already been taken for relief by distribution of agricultural loans, crop loans and gratuitous relief, and by organising paddy-husking. Test relief works will also be started shortly. The following amounts have been distributed in the union for the above-mentioned purposes:—

			Rs.
Agricultural loan	...	...	2,470
Crop loan	...	...	734
Gratuitous relief	...	...	30
Paddy husking	...	...	400

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the number of inhabitants in the Mulagram Union?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are about 20 villages in that area?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am not aware of that. I will make an enquiry.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make an enquiry immediately because unless a further loan is given——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. No argument please.

Distress in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, due to flood.

14. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that in the month of *Ashar* last heavy flood devastated the Cox's Bazar subdivision of the Chittagong district;

(*ii*) that it has rendered thousands of people homeless; and

(*iii*) that acute distress is prevailing in the locality?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of such homeless families;

(*ii*) what steps have been taken for their relief; and

(*iii*) how many acres of land have become unfit for cultivation due to the flood in the Chakaria thana of the said subdivision?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate the remission of revenue in case of the lands which have become uncultivable in the Chakaria thana?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (*a*) (*i*) Heavy rainfall in conjunction with high tides caused floods which affected some unions of the Cox's Bazar subdivision.

(*ii*) and (*b*) (*i*) 350 houses were washed away.

(*iii*) There is some distress.

(*b*) (*ii*) Agricultural loans and crop loans have been distributed in the area. Gratuitous relief will also be given.

(*iii*) The exact area is not yet known, but the area is small.

(*c*) Where necessary, remission will be granted according to the rules.

Number of girl students in colleges.

15. Maulvi IDRIS AHMED MIA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately the number of—

(1) Muslim girls,

(2) Caste Hindu girls,

(3) Scheduled Caste girls,

(4) Christian girls, and

(5) girls belonging to other caste or creed at present reading in—

(1) (*i*) Government colleges affiliated up to the B.A. standard,

(*ii*) private colleges affiliated up to the B.A. standard, and

(2) (*i*) Government colleges affiliated up to the I.A. standard,

(*ii*) private colleges affiliated up to the I.A. standard,

(*iii*) Government Islamic colleges affiliated up to the I.A. standard, and

(*iv*) private Islamic colleges affiliated up to the I.A. standard?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to unstarred question No. 15.

	Muslim girls.	Caste Hindu girls.	Scheduled Caste girls.	Christian girls.	Girls belonging to other caste or creed.
	1	2	3	4	5
(1) (*i*) Government colleges affiliated up to the B.A. standard.	29	361	1	14	3
(*ii*) Private colleges affiliated up to B.A. standard.	41	1,417	15	163	43
(2) (*i*) Government colleges affil ated up to I.A. standard.	79	30	..	6	..
(*ii*) Private colleges affiliated up to I.A. standard.	3	310	5	13	1
(*iii*) Government Islamic colleges affiliated up to I.A. standard.	..	..	..	..	..
(*iv*) Private Islamic colleges affiliated up to I.A. standard.	..	..	..	..	..

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why there are no pupils reading in Islamic Intermediate colleges, both Government and private?

Mr. SPEAKER: How can he answer that question?

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Sir, my point is whether they are undesirable or there is any bar.

Mr. SPEAKER: It does not arise.

Appointment of clerks for settlement operation.

16. Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many clerks were appointed in the Settlement Department during the year 1940-41;

(*ii*) how many of them are—

(1) Caste Hindus,

(2) Scheduled Castes, and

(3) Muslims;

(*iii*) how many of them were appointed—

(1) as paid clerks on a monthly pay, and

(2) on the basis of a contract system; and

(*iv*) what is the number of establishment clerks in the said department?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (*i*) 1,193.

(*ii*) (1) Caste Hindus and other communities	...	528
(2) Scheduled Castes	...	74
(3) Muslims	...	591
Total	...	1,193

(*iii*) (1) 747 and (2) 446.

(*iv*) Number of establishment clerks—30.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: With reference to answer (*iii*)(1), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the

communal ratio has been maintained in the total number of 747 paid clerks on monthly pay or the ratio has been maintained in the appointmet of clerks on monthly pay and the clerks appointed on contract system?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry you have to put another question. The question of communal ratio or anything about that is not the subject matter of this question.

Appointment of draftsmen for settlement operation.

17. Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many draftsmen were appointed in the Settlement Department during the year 1940-41; and

(*b*) how many of them are—

(1) Caste Hindus,

(2) Scheduled Castes, and

(3) Muslims?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (*a*) 33.

(*b*) (1) Caste Hindus—17.

(2) Scheduled Castes—Nil*.

(3) Muslims—16.

*The posts require technical qualifications. No Scheduled Caste candidate with the requisite qualifications was found. The persons appointed as draftsmen were previously discharged for want of work.

Electrification of Government buildings at Malda.

18. Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the amount sanctioned for electrification of Government buildings in the Rajshahi Division;

(*ii*) what is the amount sanctioned for the district of Malda in the last budget; and

(*iii*) whether any work has been taken up in the district of Malda?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the work in the Malda district is likely to be taken up before March, 1942?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) (*i*) Rs.50,102.

(*ii*) Rs.11,566.

(*iii*) No.

(*b*) No, unless the schemes are found to be very urgent.

Repair of Jamalpur-Sherpur Road in Mymensingh.

19. Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN (Mymensingh): Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Jamalpur-Sherpur Road (a district board road running from Pakshimari ghat to Sherpur town) is a most important road of the district of Mymensingh both on point of administration and trade communication and whether it is a fact that this road is the gateway of half the subdivision of Jamalpur and some portion of Assam having no railway communication in the area;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that owing to the heavy liabilities and want of sufficient funds of the District Board of Mymensingh the local contractors of Jamalpur subdivision have given up altogether the execution of even annual repairing of the above road and as a result this road has become almost impassable; and

(*iii*) whether Government having regard to the importance of the road, proposes to take up immediately the responsibility of the annual repairing of the road to keep the road passable for all time to come and to avoid such crisis in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*i*) The road from Jamalpur to Sherpur is a part of a district main road included in Mr. King's Report and is not of Provincial importance.

(*ii*) I have no information.

(*iii*) No.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to answer (*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell this House whether the road is still under the management of the District Board of Mymensingh before the King's scheme comes into operation?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It is still a District Board road.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: As the District Board is taking no step with regard to such an important road, will Government please remind the District Board of its duty?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, my question is whether, in view of the fact that owing to the heavy liabilities and want of sufficient funds the District Board is not doing anything and in view of the fact that Government admits that this is an important road of the district, Government will take any action.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Members of the District Board may move a vote of censure and then Government will take action.

Bridges in Assam-Bengal Railway embankment.

20. Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware—

(*i*) that in the rainy season strong current of water coming from Tippera hill has been damaging the crops of Gopinathpur, Moniondha, Mogra and Akhaura Unions under police-station Kasba, in the district of Tippera;

(*ii*) that there are not sufficient number of bridges on the Assam-Bengal Railway embankment to drain out the water; and

(*iii*) that the people of the said area have represented to the Railway authorities the necessity of construction of more bridges in the Assam-Bengal Railway embankment?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what steps do the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) (*i*) I am informed that damage was caused to the crops of the lowlying areas in some of these unions during the last flood. Such damages are not frequent.

(*ii*) The question of the adequacy or otherwise of the existing waterways in the Assam-Bengal Railway line in the locality is under investigation by the experts of Government.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) The action to be taken depends on the result of the investigation referred to in clause (*ii*) above.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us when the representation by the people of the locality was made and when the investigation was carried out?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry I cannot give the exact time.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when the investigation is likely to be completed?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I will try to expedite the matter.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is no longer any railway called the "Assam-Bengal Railway"?

(Mr. Speaker called the next question.)

Admission into the Kharagpur Bengal-Nagpur Railway High English School.

21. Mr. KRISHNA PRASAD MONDAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Kharagpur Bengal-Nagpur Railway High English School in the district of Midnapore gets any monthly grant-in-aid from Government; and

(*b*) whether children other than that of the employees of Bengal-Nagpur Railway are admitted into the said school?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes; but preference is given to the children of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway employees.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARY MAITI: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the percentage of boys between the different sets of people?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: There are 1,185 railway employees' children and wards as against 100 outsiders. The honourable member can work out the percentage.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARY MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount of grant-in-aid that is paid to the school?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Rs. 950 per month.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the total expenditure of the school?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That I cannot tell off-hand.

Government grant to Bathuajani Primary Girls' School in Tangail, Mymensingh.

22. Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that a petition for Government grant to the Bathuajani Primary Girls' School in village Bathuajani, police-station Tangail, district Mymensingh, from its Secretary was submitted last year to the Sub-Inspector of Schools, Tangail;

(*ii*) that in this connection the Divisional and District Inspectresses of Girls' Schools along with the Sub-Inspector of Schools, Tangail, visited the said girls' school; and

(*iii*) that they recommended a Government grant?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that it being the only girls' school in the locality is attended by a large number of girls?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of sanctioning a Government grant to the said girls' school?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) (*i*) and (*iii*) No.

(*ii*) The Assistant Inspectress of Schools, Dacca Division, Mymensingh, alone visited the school in the course of her tour in the Tangail subdivision.

(*b*) Only 59 girls of whom 44 are in class I, attend the school.

(*c*) The case will receive consideration of the District School Board along with such other cases in due course.

Adjournment Motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I draw your attention to the adjournment motion regarding the internment of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee of which I gave notice?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry I find that it is a very complicated matter. It is connected with several other matters particularly in connection with the report of the Committee of Privileges. That matter has not been disposed of by Government. I am personally looking into the whole question because I feel for several reasons that a question like this ought to be settled on a definite principle. In the meantime, I am proposing to address the Government again as to what they propose to do with regard to the report of the Committee of Privileges. Therefore, I suggest that the matter may for the time being stand over.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I am thankful to you for the assurance given. Would you kindly put in your letter to the Government a particular date by which a reply should be given, failing which this adjournment motion may be taken up?

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: I find that the ex-Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy has something with him—it may be a binocular, it may be a camera or it may be revolver. May we know what it is?

Petrol rationing and Assembly Department Staff.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please. There are certain matters which concern the House. Is it the wish of the House that I should take them up now or after the election of the Deputy Speaker?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: These may be taken up now.

Mr. SPEAKER: You may remember that the House discussed the question of the difficulties of the members, specially during the Assembly session, about petrol rationing. After that I have been taking information and I got information recently that the Government of India have permitted a certain quantity of petrol for every member attending Assembly sittings or committee sittings. I sent a wire and I got the reply that half a gallon of petrol per member per day for each Assembly and committee sitting is permitted. I am drawing the attention of the Government to that fact and I do hope that Government will be pleased to come to a decision on this matter at an early date.

Then there is another matter. I am in frightful difficulty so far as the Assembly Department office is concerned. It is not necessary for me to go into details. In spite of my very strong protest, Government thought that the First Assistant Secretary should be transferred. He was in entire charge not only of the technical section but also of the A. R. P. section. In fact, by an arrangement between this

Department, the Council Department and the Legislative Department and for all these departments he was in charge of A. R. P. Somehow or other that transfer had to take place and the First Assistant Secretary had to be relieved almost peremptorily on the 15th January last.

The Second Assistant Secretary had been overworked and in spite of the best efforts he could not get any leave in 1941. He wanted leave, but the exigencies of our work were such that we could not allow him any leave. This year he wanted leave and I recommended it, but it was turned down by Government for the reason that the First Assistant Secretary was going away. We are without the First Assistant Secretary and the Second Assistant Secretary and things have come to such a pass that there is practically a breakdown and it is impossible for us to manage except under limited circumstances. The only way in which we can manage, at least so far as travelling allowance and other allowance bills are concerned, is passing of these bills only once a month; otherwise with our present staff it is not possible to manage. I am reporting this matter to the members so that they may do whatever they like.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are deeply concerned to know that there is a certain amount of difficulty in your office. We were given to understand by certain members of Government that you yourself were pleased to agree to the proposal of taking away the First Assistant Secretary. Sir, we also felt that there would be difficulty in the administration of the office, but that officer was due to get a certain amount of consideration from Government and from yourself, Sir, which he did not get and I find that that officer has to-day been made an officiating District Judge. If it was the position that he was one of the most useful members of your staff it was only fair that Government and your department would make some consideration for him. In these circumstances, we on this side of the Opposition would not like any inconvenience to be caused to the members and we would expect Government to see that your office is properly staffed and if inefficient members have got to be weeded out to make room for efficient men, that measure will have to be taken for the efficient working of your office.

Mr. SPEAKER: I may go on further. I have tremendous difficulties. My first difficulty is that the pay of the Assembly staff is on a lower scale than that of the Secretariat staff and the result has been that we train our men and then they are best qualified and get better pay. In fact, a man for whom I could not get Rs. 10 extra is now holding a gazetted post in a technical capacity. I may point out that the Assembly staff is overworked, but I have not been able to do anything for them. So far as the First Assistant Secretary is

concerned, I have been all along of opinion that a technical post like this should not be the subject-matter of any transfer ordinarily. After all, Parliament can function only if there is continuity of policy and continuity of work.

I may tell the House that when I had to take the First Assistant Secretary I had to take him without Government orders even. It was by telephone talk that he was taken, because there was nobody available, and Government were aware of that fact. Thereafter I represented to Government that as he is a member of the Judicial Service, he ought to have the fullest advantage of the pay to which he would have been entitled had he remained in the Judicial Service. The rules which are applicable to certain services ought to be applicable to the members of the Judicial Service who are in our department.

There are several other matters. From December last I had no other alternative but to leave this matter entirely to their decision without giving any opinion from me. If my department is treated in this way it is no use asking for Speaker's views about administrative matters. Let the Government do what lies in their power. That is the attitude which I had to take with regard to this case. Thus when Government asked me as to who should be appointed as First Assistant Secretary, I refused to pass any opinion, because our previous First Assistant Secretary was transferred without my consent.

These are the circumstances which I am explaining. I would not have said all this but for the fact that very soon I have to leave you all. I do not know whether I shall be able to see you again. I have been in charge of this department and have tried my level best to maintain the prestige and dignity of the House. I do hope that the Chief Minister and the other Ministers will see that I may not have to leave a legacy which may place this department in a difficult position.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May we suggest that the matter should be referred to the Committee of Privileges? (Laughter.)

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Let us also think about the menial staff. They have to work something like 16 hours a day.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would also like to say that the present A. R. P. arrangement in this House is not at all satisfactory.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I wish to make a statement regarding the remarks that have fallen from the Chair. Before I do so I would be very grateful if you will please let me know when these defects took place which gave rise to this unfortunate situation. Was it before 17th December?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. The final decision of Government was probably before that. The actual order was passed later on.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Not by this Government but by Government which——

(Loud uproar.)

May I be allowed to make a statement?

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: What was the responsibility of the Chief Minister, then, Sir?

(Loud uproar.)

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: It was the duty of the Home Department.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: But he was Chief Minister all through.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The matter never came before the Cabinet.

(Uproar.)

I did not even finish my sentence, but I find that my remarks were so pungent that they drew all sorts of incongruous processes from people who know nothing about the administration. I am extremely sorry that the old Government have left us a legacy of all these irregular doings. (Loud uproar.)

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: This is a very important matter——

(Uproar from all sides of the House.)

Mr. SPEAKER: If you like you can give notice of a relevant motion. The House will now take up supplementary demands.

Supplementary Demands for 1941-42.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, I beg to present before the House the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the current year. The total covered by the estimate is Rs. 2,39,44,000, out of which Rs. 2,75,000 is charged and the balance voted.

About this time last year, during the general discussion of the Budget, it was urged by some honourable members that, in view of the prevailing financial stringency, additional expenditure should be avoided in 1941-42 and that if any urgent necessity for additional expenditure did arise, supplementary estimates should be placed before

the Legislature without loss of time. The late Finance Minister gave an assurance that Government would not embark on any large commitments without previously obtaining the sanction of the Legislature. Unfortunately, this assurance could not be implemented. In view of unexpected developments both at home and abroad the late Government had to undertake very heavy commitments without securing the prior assent of the Legislature. An idea, however, of some of the unbudgeted liabilities in the current year was furnished by the late Finance Minister when introducing the Bengal Raw Jute Taxation Bill in the July session of the Assembly. The enumeration of unbudgeted liabilities given at that time was necessarily sketchy and far from complete. No reference was made by him to expenditure on A. R. P. and allied emergency measures which were then being undertaken. But even if the enumeration had been exhaustive, it is only fair for me to add that it would have been but a poor substitute for the normal procedure outlined in the Act for obtaining the assent of the House to additional supplies. I am not here to justify the delay in presenting the Supplementary Demands on the part of the past Government, but I must ask the House to realise that the times through which we are now passing are far from normal. In the swift onrush of events the anticipations of to-day are very often belied by the developments of to-morrow and decisions have to be made and emergent expenditure undertaken at very short notice. It may not be always possible in these circumstances to seek the prior concurrence of the Legislature to schemes of new expenditure, but I can assure the House that every attempt will be made to approach it in good time for additional supplies and not to allow unsanctioned liabilities to accumulate up to the very end of the financial year.

Let me now turn to the details of the estimate. Out of the total demand of 2 crores 39 lakhs, over 99 lakhs is on account of loans to agriculturists. The House is already aware of the circumstances under which distribution of agricultural loans on an unusually heavy scale had to be undertaken in the current year. Given favourable crop conditions these loans are expected to be recovered in the course of two years.

The other demands included in the Supplementary may now be considered.

By far the largest of these items, amounting to nearly 71 lakhs, relates to emergency measures of Civil Defence. In my Budget Statement yesterday I set forth the salient features of our Scheme of Civil Defence as well as of the new Agreement made with the Centre for the allocation of financial responsibility in regard to it. I will not tax the patience of the House by repeating these details but will merely point out that the extra 71 lakhs included in the Supplementary

is merely the Provincial share of the total additional cost of Civil Defence measures. I now pass on to some of the other important items.

An expenditure of nearly 28 lakhs over and above the Budget provision is involved in the relief of distress brought about by floods, drought and other natural calamities. A little over 12¼ lakhs is required under "Police" for the expansion of the Civic Guard organisation and the employment of emergency staff for the maintenance of internal security in the abnormal situation created by the War. Under "Agriculture" the original provision of 22 lakhs for the regulation of jute cultivation has to be supplemented by a little over 10½ lakhs, as the actual cost of checking and licensing work has proved to be greatly in excess of the original estimate. The demand of about 8¾ lakhs under "Jails" has been necessitated mainly by an increase in the number of prisoners and in the price of food-grains. Under "Land Revenue" an additional 3¼ lakhs is required mainly as a result of the enhanced cost of settlement operations in Bakarganj and Faridpur. The demand of about 2¾ lakhs under "Other Taxes and Duties" is for the administration of the Sales Tax which came into operation after the Budget was passed. The excess of nearly 2 lakhs under "Miscellaneous" is due mainly to payment of gratuitous relief to sufferers from communal riots in the district of Dacca.

The demands under the remaining heads are comparatively small. Most of these relate to obligatory items of expenditure. Thus the demand under "Stamps" is due to larger discount payable to vendors as a result of increased sale of non-judicial stamps. The excess under "Interest on Debt and other obligations" arises from additional borrowing which had to be undertaken for ways and means purposes. And finally the excess under "Commutation of Pensions" is due to an unexpected increase in the number of cases in which commutation of pension is obligatory on the part of Government.

One more item and I have done. This relates to the extra demand of 68 thousand rupees under "Cinchona". As a shortage of chemicals and packing materials is apprehended, it was considered advisable to lay by a reserve of these materials so that the work of production and distribution of quinine may proceed without interruption. The additional expenditure was necessitated mainly by this measure of precaution.

The reasons for all the demands presented to the House have been set forth in the Explanatory Memorandum and will be gone into more fully by the Hon'ble Ministers concerned when these demands are moved.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to distribute copies of his statement amongst the members?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: It is being circulated.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, my submission is that the Supplementary Statement covers a very wide ground covering about Rs. 239 lakhs and only one day (26th February) has been allotted for the voting of 13 demands. It would be extremely unfair to the House to confine it to one day. I find that February 27th has been allotted for non-official Bills. I would submit that both 26th and 27th February, might be allotted for the discussion of the Supplementary Estimates.

Assembly Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is one thing which I want to say. In view of the unfortunate statements made by both sides of the House, I want to make it quite clear that, so far as I am concerned, I am not aware to what extent Ministers are or are not responsible for this state of affairs in the Assembly. I do hope that this question will not be taken as a Ministerial issue. I beg of members to my right and to my left not to treat it in that way because this is a matter which you will have to take up again. I wish to say that the Speaker and the Assembly are considered as subordinate to the Secretariat administration and as such the Speaker has not ordinarily the right to approach directly the Ministers. He has to approach the Secretary of the department. I do not know how matters stand. It is possible that most of these matters may have nothing to do with the Ministers. Anyway, until it is definitely known that the Ministers are or are not responsible, I hope both sides of the House including the Chief Minister will not ascribe anything to this Ministry or to that Ministry.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will you permit me to say a few words? It is a question of privilege of the House; it cannot be burked. The word used by you is "Government" and there was no mention of the Secretariat. I am standing for the right of the House. You will, I hope, give us an opportunity to express our views on this subject.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just half a second. I have to take orders from Government and for the purpose of matters concerning the Assembly which is subordinate to the Secretariat administration, we have to accept decisions of the Secretariat. How Secretariat works I do not know.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: It cannot mean that.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is what I have always understood.

Election of Deputy Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: We will now proceed to the election of the Deputy Speaker of this Assembly.

The following candidates have been duly nominated for the post of the Deputy Speaker:—

(1) Maulvi Abdul Hakeem.
(2) Maulvi Abdul Wahab Khan.
(3) Maulvi Md. Abul Fazl.
(4) Maulvi Abul Hashim.
(5) Khan Bahadur Md. Anwarul Azim.
(6) Maulvi Azhar Ali.
(7) Mr. Premhari Barma.
(8) Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas.
(9) Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra Das.
(10) Miss Mira Datta Gupta.
(11) Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose.
(12) Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy.
(13) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed Md. Afzal.
(14) Mr. Pulin Behari Mullick.
(15) Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal.
(16) Mr. Atul Chandra Sen.
(17) Mr. Shahedali.

Since then all have withdrawn their candidature except Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy and Maulvi Md. Abul Fazl.

The Assembly will now proceed to elect the Deputy Speaker from amongst these two candidates. In the case of balloting for the Deputy Speaker, the following procedure will be adopted, *viz.*:—

(1) Members on the west side of the House west of the gangway are requested to vote in the west lobby and those sitting on the other side in the east lobby.

(2) Six ballot boxes and six screened places have been provided in each of the division lobbies, to enable a member to record his vote screened from observation.

(3) Each member will be given his ballot paper as he passes by the counter in the lobby.

(4) Members are requested to indicate their preference on the ballot paper by marking an "X" against the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote. They should not sign or initial the ballot paper.

The whips of the different parties have been shown the ballot boxes and they are satisfied that these have been properly sealed and locked. The ballot papers will be distributed as the members pass on to the counters.

(At this stage some of the members rose in their seats and were just moving on towards the counters when Mr. Speaker again addressed the House in the following manner.)

Just a minute please, Ladies and Gentlemen, before the ballot papers are carried to the counters.....(Pause).....Voting will now proceed and honourable members move on either to my right or to my left as already explained.

(A ballot was then taken.)

I take it that every member has voted. Secretary will now take steps to get the ballot boxes.

(The ballot boxes were then brought to Secretary and votes were being counted.)

Assembly Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: Meantime I may inform the Press that nothing of what has been discussed in this House about the office arrangement should appear in the Press.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In view of your observation, regarding office administration I propose, Sir, before you leave this province as we understand you intend to do shortly that the Hon'ble Minister concerned give us permission to move a special motion requiring the Assembly Department to be placed entirely at your disposal. I have drafted the relevant motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please send it to office and I will take steps.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If you don't do it now, then——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Please give it to me now. My programme is that I shall leave Calcutta this afternoon and shall be back on the 25th or 26th morning. On the very day I arrive here, you can take up this matter in my presence.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you, Sir, I am giving the motion in the meantime.

Message of welcome to Generalissimo Marshal Chiang-Kai-Shek and Madame Chiang-Kai-Shek.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think we might profitably utilise the time intervening in the course of the present election.

It has been the unanimous desire of all sections of the House that I should, on behalf of the Assembly and on behalf of the people of the province of Bengal whom we represent here in this House, carry our message of welcome to Generalissimo Marshal Chiang-Kai-Shek and Madame Chiang-Kai-Shek. They have come to this province at a time when we are in difficult circumstances but, nonetheless, I am sure he will carry an impression with him from this province that the heart of Bengal goes out in extending her welcome to them both. I am quite sure that his presence in Calcutta is an honour to this province and will inspire courage and hope in the minds of the people of Bengal. I am also quite confident that the bond between India and China will grow closer and nearer as it has been during centuries past. We belong to the same continent and the ideal which has been permeating the history of India has got a close affinity with the ideal of China. Once again on your behalf, Ladies and Gentlemen, I carry the message of welcome to them both. (Loud applause from all sections of the House.)

Election of Deputy Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: A ballot has been taken and the result of the voting is as follows:—

		Votes.
(1) Mr. Md. Abul Fazl	... ..	63
(2) Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy	... ..	130

I declare that Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy having obtained the majority of votes is duly elected as Deputy Speaker. (Loud applause.) Mr. Hashemy, I think I can, on behalf of the House, congratulate you on your election as Deputy Speaker, but personally I am very sorry that our association will be very short-lived. As I shall have to leave Calcutta this afternoon to attend to some urgent duties elsewhere, you will probably have to carry out, Mr. Hashemy, the work of the Speaker for some days until my return to Calcutta on the 26th instant.

May I now ask the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to say a few words on this occasion?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: *I thought, Sir, you were* speaking as the representative of the House and therefore I shall not have to say anything. Sir, I wish most heartily to convey my congratulations to Mr. Hashemy on his election as Deputy Speaker.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On behalf of the party that I have the honour to represent I should like to offer our congratulations to Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy on his election as Deputy Speaker of this Assembly. I believe he can claim to be one of the oldest members of this House and one of those who can never be accused as having ever remained a silent member of this House. I hope that the honour and privilege of this House will be quite safe in his hands.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, on behalf of the Congress Assembly Party I congratulate Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy on his elevation to the position of Deputy Speaker of this Assembly. I have special reasons to congratulate him as he is a Congressman. (Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is it! He then stands exposed.) Sir, I have not the slightest doubt that the dignity of this House and the privileges of its members will be safe in his hands.

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: On behalf of the European Party, I convey our congratulations to Mr. Hashemy on his election as Deputy Speaker, and I hope that the House will extend to him the same courtesy which, I am sure, may be expected from Mr. Hashemy at all times to the House.

Mr. J. W. CHIPPENDALE: Sir, I associate myself wholeheartedly with the statements made by the previous speakers. From the work he has done in the past in public life we feel sure that all our privileges and rights will be safe in his hands and that he will carry on and perform his duties with tact, skill and ability.

Mr. SPEAKER: I associate myself wholeheartedly with the remarks made by the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and other party leaders. My experience is that a Speaker in spite of his legs is lame in many matters. But I hope, he will have better luck to carry out his duties, as and when occasion requires.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for the honour you have done me this morning and I appreciate the words of congratulation on my success at the election of the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, and other party leaders. For all practical purposes my idea is that the Deputy Speaker of a Legislature has no function. If by chance any occasion

arises when I shall have to guide the deliberations of this House, I can assure you I shall try my level best to follow your footsteps, Sir, and I am confident that honourable members belonging to the various sections of this House will lend their support and co-operation to me in my endeavour to properly conduct the deliberations of this House.

Once again, Sir, I thank you and the honourable members of this House for the honour you have done me on this occasion.

Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned at 10-48 a.m. till 8-30 a.m. on Friday, the 20th February, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 20th February, 1942, at 8-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (MR. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 7 Hon'ble Ministers and 207 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Distribution of rural water-supply grant for Dacca district.

***23. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to state, showing separately, for the years 1939-40 and 1940-41—

(*i*) the amount of grant given at the disposal of the Magistrate of Dacca for rural water-supply; and

(*ii*) the amount surrendered by the Magistrate to the Government during the said period?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Subdivisional Officers submitted their schemes for rural water-supply of their respective subdivisions every year in due time to the District Magistrate?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the money was not distributed amongst those who submitted their scheme for rural water-supply in time?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu):

	1939-40.	1940-41.
	Rs.	Rs.
(*a*) (*i*)	39,445	44,084
(*ii*)	Nil.	1,955

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to question (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the estimated costs to work out a scheme submitted by the Subdivisional Officer?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I cannot supply the information now.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to question (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any items in the scheme submitted by the Subdivisional Officer were not worked out?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I think so.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to question (*a*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what accounts for the amount surrendered?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: We have called for the materials from the District Magistrate and we are awaiting his reply.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government made any condition precedent that before granting any amount to any particular union for water supply a contribution was demanded?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Yes, that is so.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this rule caused hardship to the places where there was scarcity of water?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Yes, I think it did.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he should consider the desirability of relaxing this rule?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Yes.

Tangail-Mymensingh Road.

***29. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state the progress of the Tangail-Mymensingh Road that has been made up till now?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any order has been issued or direction made to the agents and contractors concerned to store up the requisite materials in their respective proper places during this rainy season to expedite the whole matter in near future; and

(*ii*) whether the earthwork of the road up to Tangail has been completed?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) (*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how far it has been done?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the *kutcha* portion (without the bridge portions) of the road up to Tangail is likely to be completed by the next season?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*) The scheme provides for concreting the 46·7 miles of road between Muktagacha and Tangail. Of these 46·7 miles concreting of about 17 miles has been completed up to date and it is expected that a further 9 miles will be done this financial year.

The bridges in sections of the road between Mymensingh and Kalihati (about 45 miles) have already been completed.

Out of 30 bridges to be constructed in the Kalihati-Tangail section (the river at Kalihati and the Pauli are not to be bridged as efficient ferries ply throughout the year) the detailed estimates for 18 have been sanctioned up to date. Of these 8 have been completed and 10 are under construction. Detail designs for the remaining 12 are in hand but it is apprehended that progress will be hampered as steel is at present not readily available.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes, except for the Kalihati-Tangail section where land acquisition has not yet been completed.

(*ii*) No.

(*c*) Earthwork up to Madhupur (29 miles from Mymensingh) has been completed except half a mile in patches which could not be finished due to early monsoon this year. This will however be completed by end of December, 1941.

Earthwork in Madhupur-Kalihati section (length about 16 miles) has almost been completed throughout the length to admit of concreting.

In the last section (12 miles) earthwork in diversions and almost all the bridge approaches has nearly been completed. With the delivery of possession of road side land for the remaining portion which is expected in December this year the earthwork will be pushed through to completion before next monsoon.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when do Government expect that this road will be completed?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It is very difficult for me at the present moment to answer. I will look up the file and let the honourable member know.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: The Hon'ble Minister in his reply to (*c*) has said that this will however be completed by the end of December, 1941. That December is long past and it has not still been completed.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I have already said that there are difficulties. I will look into the matter.

Construction of the Damodar Bridge.

***30. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that communication with the people of trans-Damodar area was discontinued for about a week owing to the recent flood of the Damodar river; and

(*ii*) that the discontinuance of communications caused inconvenience to the public?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the proposal of Damodar bridge near Sadarghat has been abandoned?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) (*i*) I am informed that communication was discontinued for about 36 hours only.

(*ii*) Yes, as is usual in such circumstances.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Government relief measures for the distressed people of Kishoreganj.

*31. **Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the total amount spent in giving relief to the distressed people of the sub-division of Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, from August, 1941, up to 30th November, 1941, by way of—

(*i*) gratuitous relief,

(*ii*) test relief, and

(*iii*) agricultural loan

showing separately the amount on different heads, union by union, of the Bhairab, Kuliarchar, Bajitpur, Austagram, Itna and Tarail police-stations?

(*b*) Does not Hon'ble Minister contemplate to continue the relief till the harvesting of the next crop; if so, up to what month?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE, JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee): (*a*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*b*) Relief will be expended whenever urgently needed; in some areas it will continue till the next harvest, i.e., end of March.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of question No. 31.

Union No.	Total amount spent.		
	(*i*) Gratuitous relief.	(*ii*) Test relief.	(*iii*) Agricultural loans.
	BAZITPUR THANA.		
	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.
I	315 0 0	..	9,801
II	172 0 0	..	7,169
III	470 6 6	70	13,835
IV	185 0 0	55	13,292
V	110 0 0	..	10,240
VI	..	..	..
VII	..	..	..
Total ..	1,252 6 6	125	54,337

Union No.			Total amount spent. (i) Gratuitous relief.			(ii) Test relief.	(iii) Agricultural loans.
			KULIARCHAR THANA.				
			Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	Rs.
I	..	..	..			..	..
II	..	..	..			..	..
III	..	..	15	0	0	20	4,993
IV	..	..	22	2	6	..	5,385
V	..	..	..			25	..
	Total	..	37	2	6	45	10,378
			BHAIRAB THANA.				
I	..	..	710	0	0	..	14,866
II	..	..	745	0	0	..	8,900
III	..	..	745	0	0	..	10,330
IV	..	..	..			..	..
V	..	..	..			..	..
VI	..	..	..			..	..
	Total	..	2,200	0	0	..	34,096
			AUSTAGRAM THANA.				
I	..	..	3,996	0	0	..	18,738
II	..	..	4,128	0	0	..	18,511
III	..	..	4,235	0	0	..	20,864
IV	..	..	3,822	0	0	..	18,281
V	..	..	469	0	0	..	7,485
VI	..	..	878	0	0	..	10,754
VII	..	..	1,294	0	0	..	15,447
	Total	..	18,822	0	0	..	1,10,090
			ITNA THANA.				
I	..	..	280	0	0	..	8,964
II	..	..	88	6	0	..	3,449
III	..	..	81	6	0	..	6,270
IV	..	..	579	0	0	..	8,061
V	..	..	355	0	0	..	7,721
VI	..	..	290	0	0	..	8,677
VII	..	..	370	0	0	..	8,570
VIII	..	..	214	8	0	..	4,839
IX	..	..	241	0	0	..	10,439
X	..	..	223	0	0	..	10,946
XI	..	..	181	7	6	..	9,855
	Total	..	2,903	11	6	..	87,791

Union No.	Total amount spent. (i) Gratuitous relief.	(ii) Test relief.	(iii) Agricultural loans.
	TARAIL THANA.		
	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.
I	..	..	..
II	..	75	1,028
III	120 0 0	..	9,228
IV	100 0 0	120	9,818
V	100 0 0	..	6,895
VI	120 0 0	..	9,212
VII	60 0 0	..	8,116
VIII	..	..	..
Total ..	500 0 0	195	44,297
Grand Total (for all thanas) ..	25,715 4 6	365	3,40,979

Representation of Mutwallis in the Board of Wakfs.

***32. Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether there is any representative of the Mutwallis of Bengal in the newly constituted Board of Wakfs as contemplated in section 8(2)(*c*) of the Bengal Wakf Act, 1934?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Provincial Government had fixed any date for the election of the representative of Mutwallis as contemplated in section 8(3)?

(*d*) If so, where and when it was published? If not, why not?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR and EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The election failed, no nomination papers having been submitted within the appointed time.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) This Government Education Department notification No. 1350-Mis., dated the 21st December, 1940, fixing the various dates required for the purpose of this election, was published on page 33 of Part I of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 2nd January, 1941.

The contents of this notification were given due publicity in the usual way by forwarding copies thereof to the Commissioner of Wakfs, Bengal, Commissioners of Divisions, Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, Inspector-General of Registration, Bengal, Director of Public Information, Bengal, and also to certain other officers and offices.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the electoral roll for the holding of election was prepared by the office of the Commissioner of Wakf?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I think so.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that no electoral roll was prepared for election of a representative to the Board?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I want notice.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware if it is a fact that the electoral roll was not prepared because Government were not prepared to hold an election?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That is not so. As far as my information goes, the electoral roll was prepared duly and in proper time.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is a discontent on account of the fact that sufficient notifications were not made?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I do not admit that.

Collection of education tax in Pirojpur subdivision, Bakarganj.

***33. Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that Tona Union Board, in Pirojpur subdivision, Bakarganj, have been asked by the Circle Officer in his letter No. 413-(33)G., dated the 1st August 1941, to collect education tax;

(*ii*) that the rate-payers of the Tona Union Board have been informed that they will have to pay an additional tax as education tax; and

(*iii*) that the rate of the tax is one-fourth of the amount of the tax they have been paying?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason of realising this additional tax over and above the education cess?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Rate-payers assessed to education tax under section 34 of the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930, have been so informed.

(*iii*) The Act provides that the District Magistrate shall assess the tax at a rate not exceeding Rs.100 per annum for each person.

(*b*) Education tax is not "over and above education cess." Education cess is a cess on owners and occupiers of real property. Education tax is assessed on persons whose incomes are derived from trade, business or profession.

Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly tell the House what is the percentage of these assessees in each union in each district where this assessment was made?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It is impossible to answer a question like that off-hand. If you want full information, I want notice.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the levy of the education cess over traders and businessmen lies on the discretion of the Presidents of Union Boards?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Not at all. It is in the discretion of the District Magistrate.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware whether the District Magistrate leaves it to the discretion of the Presidents of the Union Boards to levy this educational cess on traders and businessmen in rural areas?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, it is to realise, not to assess.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the agriculturists who are conducting small trade on all these things are being additionally taxed and are being made to pay education tax twice on that account?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Not quite exactly, but all trades are subject to the education cess.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: I may explain, Sir, that the agriculturists also ply boats and they also carry on small trades, they pay tax——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order, discussion is not permissible. You may put separate supplementary questions.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I would refer the honourable member to sections 34 and 29 of the Primary Education Act and that will solve his difficulties.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister or the Government consider the desirability of having a machinery to control the arbitrary imposition of education cess on traders and businessmen?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I will consider it.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Registering of documents at Barhatta Sub-Registry Office.

23. Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (Registration) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the distance of the Sub-Registry Office at Durgapur, within the Kalmakanda police-station in the district of Mymensingh from the group of villages comprising Raipur and other unions within the said police-station;

(*ii*) what is the means of communication to the said office from the said villages during—

(1) the dry season, and

(2) the rains;

(*iii*) what is the time taken by the journey; and

(*iv*) what is the distance of the Sub-Registry Office at Barhatta from the said villages?

(*b*) If the Sub-Registry Office at Barhatta is nearer than that at Durgapur, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of transferring the jurisdiction of the villages under Kalmakanda police-station from the Sub-Registry Office at Durgapur to that of Barhatta?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) (*i*) The group of villages comprising Raipur and other unions in Kalmakanda police-station are at a distance of about 18 miles by road in dry season and 30 miles by boat in rainy season from the Sub-Registry Office at Durgapur.

(*ii*) (1) During dry season the means of communication is by road, and (2) during the rains by boat in a roundabout way.

(*iii*) It takes about 7 hours by road and about 12 hours by boat.

(*iv*) The Sub-Registry Office at Barhatta is at a distance of 7 miles from the said villages.

(*b*) No action has yet been taken up to transfer those villages from the jurisdiction of Durgapur Sub-Registry Office to that of Barhatta Sub-Registry Office.

Representation regarding music before mosque.

24. Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that in reply to a representation made to the Hon'ble Chief Minister by Sir Manmatha Nath Mukherji regarding the question of the statement of Government policy in connection with music before mosque, the Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that he would consult the Hon'ble Home Minister for the purpose of giving a suitable reply to the said representation?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister has since consulted him in the matter?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the decision, if any, arrived at by Government in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The question is still under consideration.

Failure of crops near Tolly's Nulla.

25. Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware of the failure of crops in the area bounded on the north by Tolly's Nulla, east by the Bidyadhari river, south by the Peali river and west by the Eastern Bengal Railway in the 24-Parganas district?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the nature and extent of the failure?

(*c*) What remedial measures, if any, have the Government taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (*a*) and (*b*) Winter paddy crops to the extent of about three to four annas in low lands were affected by inundation in some low-lying areas owing to heavy rains in the latter part of July and August, 1941, but retransplantation was done in some areas with success.

(*c*) The Irrigation Department had tried to drain out the stagnant water through the new Arapanch sluice with some measure of success. As a permanent remedial measure the Bidyadhari-Peali scheme has been sanctioned and the work will be taken in hand as early as possible.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister state the extent of relief by retransplantation? Was that a success?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: It was successful.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: To what extent?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I could not say.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what remedial steps are being taken by Government to save the people from annual inundation?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The remedial steps are temporary and not of a permanent nature. So far as permanent remedial measures are concerned, the Bidyadhari-Peali scheme has been sanctioned. It has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,03,658.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the scheme is likely to be taken up?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: At once.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: This year?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Yes.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to inform the members of this House what steps are going to be taken?

(No reply.)

Presidents of Union Boards and Debt Settlement Boards.

26. Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state, district by district,—

(*a*) the total present number of Union Boards; and

(*b*) the present number of Muslim Presidents of such Boards?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: A statement is laid on the Library Table.

Scheme for reconstruction of Kankradaha sluice in 24-Parganas.

27. Khan Sahib JASIMUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware that an estimate was prepared for the reconstruction of Kankradaha sluice in 132nd mile of 24-Parganas Embankment in 1924?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any damage to crops of the area is being done, since then, in the absence of the sluice gate; and

(*ii*) the reason for the delay in the construction of the said sluice?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) No.

(*b*) (*i*) No such complaint was heard of before.

(*ii*) The people interested in the low fields adjacent to the sluice objected to its reconstruction. The Engineers of the department thought that the sluices at Patnighatta, Mahamaya and Khari would help in draining this area. There was no local demand for the sluice till May, 1941, when the people applied to the Collector for its reconstruction. His report on the subject is still awaited on receipt of which suitable action will be taken.

Survey report on construction of Sarta Bridge over the Halda in Chittagong.

28. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) With reference to the reply given to unstarred question No. 8 on the 28th July, 1941, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be

pleased to state whether the survey report and the plan estimate of the Sarta Bridge on the Chittagong-Hathazari-Magachari District Board Road over the river Halda in the district of Chittagong have since been received by the Government from the Chittagong District Board?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state—

(*i*) when they were received; and

(*ii*) the date when actual construction work is likely to be taken up?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Yes,

(*b*) (*i*) These were received by Government towards the end of July last; and

(*ii*) I am afraid I cannot say anything definitely in view of the uncertain position with regard to the availability of steel.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Sanction of loan by the Central Co-operative Banks to the rural societies of Kasba and Burichang thanas of Tippera.

29. Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department aware—

(*i*) that due to recent flood in Kasba and Burichang police-stations in the district of Tippera, the standing crops have been damaged and acute distress is prevailing in the locality; and

(*ii*) that people of the said area have to get loan from Central Co-operative Banks?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making immediate arrangement with Brahmanbaria and Comilla Central Co-operative Banks for the sanction of loan on a larger scale to the rural societies of Kasba and Burichang thanas?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hashem Ali Khan): (*a*) (*i*) Some economic difficulty has been reported from the area.

(*ii*) Members of Co-operative Societies get loan from Central Co-operative Banks through the societies.

(*b*) The needs of the members are already being met by the Brahmanbaria and Comilla Central Banks.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a large number of petitions from village societies are lying with the Comilla Central Bank undisposed?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I am not aware of the fact that any number of petitions have been filed before the Comilla Central Bank.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if he will enquire into the matter and expedite the sanction of loans to rural societies under the Comilla Central Bank?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I have already given verbal instructions to all Central Banks to supply crop loans and short-term loans to the agriculturists of the affected areas.

Covernment grant to certain colleges in Bengal.

30. Mr. IDRIS AHMED MIA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state for the years 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42—

(*i*) the total amount of—

(1) Capital grant,

(2) Monthly grant,

(3) Furniture grant,

(4) Discretionary grant, and

(5) Other grants

sanctioned for—

(1) Azizul Huq College, Bogra,

(2) Serajganj College, Pabna, and

(3) Fazlul Huq Adina College, Malda; and

(*ii*) the total amount actually paid to the above colleges during the said period?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The Fazlul Huq Adina College, Malda, received Rs.400 in the year 1941-42 from the discretionary grant of the Chief Minister. No other grants were received by any of the three colleges.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the reply given by him contains any of the items found in the budget as being granted to these colleges, *viz.*, Azizul Huq College, Serajganj College and Fazlul Huq Adina College?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I could not tell you without referring to the budget itself

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if applications for grants were received from all the three colleges?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I could not tell whether applications were received from the other two colleges also.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if it is a fact that out of these three colleges only one college was given a grant simply because it bore the name of the Hon'ble Chief Minister?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It is for the honourable member to draw his own inference.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The implication is that the Hon'ble Minister accepts the allegation.

Promotion of Auditors of Co-operative Department.

31. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state whether there is any rule for the promotion of Auditors of the Co-operative Department to the Bengal Junior Civil Service?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any such Auditor has ben promoted to the Bengal Junior Civil Service?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Both Inspectors and Auditors are considered for such promotion as both are eligible. So far no Auditor could be selected for appointment to the Bengal Junior Civil Service as the claims of the Inspectors who were selected for it could not be superseded since they were senior in service to those of the Auditors.

Debt Settlement Boards in Orakandi Circle of Copalganj subdivision, Faridpur.

32. Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department aware that ordinary Debt Settlement Boards have been established in the Orakandi Circle of Gopalganj subdivision of the Faridpur district?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the total number of Boards at present existing in that circle?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 18.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many Chairmen and clerks of this board are Muslims?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I want notice.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister accept my statement that such number is only 3?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: It might be, but I will look into it.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister please enquire into the matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Certainly.

Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes in Jackson Medical School, Jalpaiguri.

33. Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to state whether any seats have been reserved for the Scheduled Caste students seeking admission into the Jackson Medical School (Jalpaiguri)?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of reserving a number of seats for them in the said school?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) No seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste students in the Government Medical Schools in Bengal. Candidates for admission into these schools are admitted by Selection Committees in which at least one of the members is usually chosen from the Scheduled Castes in order to ensure that the claims of Scheduled Caste students are not neglected. Moreover, under the rules for the management of the Government Medical Schools the Selection Committees are authorised to fill up 15 per cent. of the seats by candidates who have special claims, and, in doing so, they have instructions to see that special attention is given to the claims of candidates from the depressed classes.

(*b*) In view of the existing provision, reservation of a definite quota of seats for the Scheduled Castes in the Government Medical Schools is not considered necessary.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: With reference to the last portion of answer (*a*) where it is said "in doing so, they have instructions to see that special attention is given to the claims of candidates from the depressed classes", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any instruction has been issued for the selection of the Scheduled Caste candidates?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: In the relevant rule in the Rules for the Management of Government Medical Schools in Bengal I find that provision has been made for issue of such instructions and I presume that these instructions have been issued.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any number of seats have been reserved for any community other than the Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I do not think that any reservation has been made except in the case of Muslims.

Adjournment Motion regarding the internment of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, M.L.A.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker; one of our members, Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, is still continuing under internment. I have already given notice of an adjournment motion on this account. The Speaker assured me that this matter would be looked into by Government and he would give his ruling at an early date. On that account he waived the question of urgency. It is already 5 long days past, and yet this member of the Assembly is continuing under detention. May we know through you, Sir, if the Government have not come to any decision on the matter? If they have not, when can I have the opportunity of moving the adjournment motion?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter is under the consideration of the Speaker and I am sure he will give his ruling when he comes back. In the meantime he has waived the question of urgency and I hope you will wait till he comes back.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am afraid it is very difficult for me to wait, because the member is still continuing under detention. I would, therefore, respectfully beg of you, Sir, to create history by demanding of the Government that the member must be brought before the House and, if not, the House would stand adjourned *sine die*.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My difficulty is this. I have not gone through the relevant papers and I do not know yet the findings of the Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The file is still with your department.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even then it will be very difficult for me. I cannot give a ruling to-day. If you will kindly see me in my Chamber, I will discuss the matter with you and, if necessary, give my ruling to-morrow.

Time of sitting of the Assembly.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, may we know how long the House is going to sit?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have consulted some of the Whips. My idea is this that the House will sit from 8-30 a.m. to 11 a.m. But there is a difference of opinion. Will you kindly help me by giving your suggestion with regard to the time-limit? If it is convenient for you to continue from 8-30 to 11-30 a.m. I am quite agreeable. If it is convenient for you to continue from 8-30 to 11 only then also I am quite agreeable. It is for you to decide how long you will continue till the Speaker comes back.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am afraid it will not be possible for you to squeeze all the parties into the short period of 2½ hours for their speeches. If the Government members agree to curtail the time allotted for them and the Opposition is allowed to have at least 2 hours out of the 2½ hours then this proposal may be possible; otherwise, Sir, I submit that we might probably meet from 8 to 12. If it is found impossible to meet till 12, we must meet at least till 11-30, but it is entirely for the Government. If they so please they may curtail the time of their members and then we might close at 11.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your view, Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin?

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I agree with Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal.

The Hon'ble Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: At least once in your life!

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Many a time I have agreed with him. I wish to make one other modification. At the time of the cut motion the House must at least sit for 3 hours.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is for the Speaker to decide. Now I want to know the view of the European Party.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Our suggestion in regard to time is 8-30 to 11.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will consult the whips of the different parties and let the House know.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I searched in vain to find out commendable difference between the Budget presented this year and the budgets presented in previous years after the Provincial Autonomy has worked out in this province, but I am

pained to say that I did not find any. I am fully aware, Sir, of the limitations of the constitution as well as of the abnormal position due to the war conditions.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has called this Budget as a War Budget and he wants us to appreciate that "nation saving" takes the place of "nation building", but may I ask him if he does seriously feel that the estimates of expenditure on "Air Raid Precautions" and on the head "Civil Defence" that he had made will really serve the nation. This will not. We all feel as Mr. Churchill himself feels when he looks to China and the Soviet Russia only the people can fight the Fascist successfully, only the people can meet the menace and only their own interest and own leadership can inspire people to the war to victory. After Singapore, the Indian people want to see if Britain can still learn the truth and unlearn the Imperialistic arrogance. Mr. Churchill records the morale and unity of Russians even in the darkest hours and demands the same of his own people, evidently of the loyal friends of India and Burma. But darkness alone does not breed the unity or morale. Mr. Churchill knows the secret, though he would not admit it.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKER: On a point of information, Sir. It has been the established convention——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sarker, let Mr. Datta finish. He has initiated the debate and let him finish.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKER: That is the question I am asking: why is Mr Datta initiating the debate?

My information is that it is the established convention that the party actually in the Opposition will open the discussion. This time, Sir——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta has been selected by the Opposition.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Soviet or no Soviet, in the acceptance of the demand of nationalist India and nationalist Burma is a streak of light or hope. Unless the demands are accepted, the provision of crores of rupees in the Budget will not save the nation. So I do not call it a "nation saving" budget.

Coming to the actual budget on Receipts Side the Hon'ble Minister expects that the yield from the country spirit under the head "Provincial Excise" is likely to be larger than the sum estimated in the year 1941-42. Prohibition is our ideal. Gradual prohibition was the aim. It is regrettable that the Hon'ble Minister expects a greater yield from

the sale of country spirit. Great source of revenue is expected from the receipts from three new taxation measures. The Hon'ble Minister expects a revenue of one crore from receipts on account of tax under the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941. When this was passed an assurance was given that the amount would be spent for nation-building departments. But now it appears that the amount will be mainly spent for carrying on ordinary administration of the country. This tax has fallen upon the poor consumers and it has caused great hardships specially in view of the rise in price of many necessaries of life.

Under the head "Industries" the Hon'ble Minister allows some reduction in the sale of Government quinine, but, Sir, the sale of Government quinine must be increased. The cinchona plantation must be more widely developed and the expenditure on that head must be increased. The extension has long been urgent. Government does not do what it should do in this sphere. Stocks of quinine are dwindling and the Government cannot expect any outside supply and the present condition makes it improbable that Java, the great supplier, will be able to send any supply at all.

Coming to the expenditure on the head "Irrigation, Navigation and the Embankments", some schemes mentioned on page 64 of the Red Book, though provided in the Budget of 1941-42, were not taken up in the year 1941-42 and strangely enough the Hon'ble Minister has not given any explanation for it. Two of the above schemes, namely, draining the *bils* and swamps lying to the north of Kristopur Canal, 24-Parganas, and the re-excavation of the Marjura Khal, Tippera district, have not been taken up. The inadequacy of the demand under this head calls for explanation from the Hon'ble Minister. This had been neglected in the past and this is neglected now. Many schemes had been waiting for a century to the great loss of the people. The expenditure under this head must enormously increase.

Coming to "General Administration", the expenditure on the item is on the increase. The expenditure on the item in the year 1938-39 was Rs. 1,45,97,000; this year the estimated expenditure is Rs. 1,63,10,000. Really it is a top-heavy administration. There is ample room for retrenchment but the persons guiding the administration are not capable of showing example. We know example is better than precept. We talk big but when we are called upon to apply it to ourselves we fail. If we look to the expenditure on the head "Ministers" at page 120 of the Blue Book we find the expenditure has increased. The actual expenditure in the year 1940-41 was Rs. 3,40,200—this year the estimated expenditure is Rs. 3,64,800, though the number of Ministers has decreased. The actual expenditure on Parliamentary Secretaries in the year 1940-41 was Rs. 22,800 but

this year it has gone up to Rs. 76,800—the more the merrier. We were told when the present Ministry took up the administration that they would accept Rs. 1,000 as their remuneration but we find otherwise. The Forward Bloc, the so-called Bengal Congress Parliamentary Party, and the Krishak Praja Party have a share in the administration. Now where is their ideal for retrenchment? On the head "Publicity Department" there is a provision for Rs. 5,69,000—an increase of about 50 per cent.—the actual expenditure in the year 1940-41 was Rs. 3,32,204. There is a lump provision of one lakh of rupees for promotion of communal harmony. The Government deserves congratulation for their declared policy of restoring unity and understanding between the two great communities. May I, Sir, tell the Government that unity does not mean mere political unity which may be imposed. It does, however, mean an unbreakable heart unity. This can be achieved by social contacts. There should be no disgraceful cry at the stations such as "Hindu water" and "Muslim water" or "Hindu tea" and "Muslim tea". There should be no separate rooms for Hindus and non-Hindus in schools and colleges, no communal schools and colleges. In this connection I refer to the Hon'ble Ministers the small booklet "Constructive Programme" (its meaning and place) by Mahatma Gandhi, and the Government should find its way to adopt the means adumbrated by the Mahatma in the little booklet. On the head "Publicity Department" there is a provision for Rs. 85,000 under the head "Grants-in-aid and contribution". May I know to whom or which institutions these sums are intended to be made? It is a long-standing question that the Commissioners are unnecessary departments. From my experience I can say they hamper the work of the District Officers. They should be done away with. As to the District Magistrates there are rooms for retrenchments. Provincial officers with reputation and ability should be in charge of the districts. They have got sympathies with the people and can understand the minds of the people. They are approachable and the needs of the people can easily be communicated to them, while the I.C.S. bureaucrats are completely divorced from the minds of the people. There should be one cadre for executive officers with an initial pay of Rs. 150 and with the maximum of Rs. 500. Regarding "Debt Conciliation Boards" the experience of working of the Boards for the last few years tells us that these Boards, as they are constituted, should not be allowed to function. They are, to say the least, corrupt with few exceptions. In each thana the Board should consist of—

(*i*) one experienced judicial and executive officer;

(*ii*) one honest and capable President of the Union;

(*iii*) another non-official, capable and honest.

The expenditure on the head will be much less.

Indiscriminately ordinary Boards should not be allowed to be constituted. There is a great scope for retrenchment under the head "Administration of Justice". Suggestions have been made times without number. As to the pay of the munsifs and subordinate judges, it can be substantially reduced. The initial pay should not exceed Rs. 150 and the maximum pay should not exceed Rs. 500. The establishment of the High Court is sacrosanct—it cannot be touched by the Legislature though there is ample room for retrenchment. The number of law officers and their pay and the pay of their establishments can be substantially reduced. On the other hand low-paid clerks deserve some consideration. Their pay is abnormally low. The grade should immediately be changed especially in view of the rise in price of the necessaries of life on account of the war condition.

When we come to "Jails", one outstanding fact that should immediately draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister is that the European warders in the Alipore and Presidency Central Jails should be done away with. The maximum pay of the European warders is Rs. 250 and that of the Indian warder is Rs. 40. The minimum pay of the European warder is Rs. 175 and that of the Indian warder is Rs. 22. Their duties are the same. This invidious distinction is galling: it should not be allowed to remain. I shall speak in detail when the cut motions will be discussed under the head "Jails and Convict Settlements". This department admits of big reforms.

Under the head "Education" the expenditure budgeted for is too inadequate. Secondary education in the province of Bengal has been developed by non-Government secondary schools. They are struggling now. Each and every school for its very existence should receive Government grant-in-aid and Government schools should be deprovincialised and the money thus saved should go to serve non-Government secondary schools and will go to the great length of improving the schools. Grants to District School Boards for primary schools are too inadequate to meet the needs of their schools. The number of such schools are few but their needs are many. I am sorry to say that the constituted District School Boards are not functioning properly. The Government should make an enquiry into the working of the Board and should try to improve them. The provision of Rs. 1,50,000 for the advancement of the education of the members of the Scheduled Castes is too inadequate. Their poverty is appalling. Their distress can better be imagined than described. When I consider the pitiable and lamentable conditions of the *muchis* of our district I feel, and feel very strongly, that Government worth the name should spend any amount for raising these people from the abyss of degradation.

Sir, the distribution of this grant needs much improvement. The need of Scheduled Castes is not mainly for separate hostels but primarily for stipends: they need free purchase of books. The policy of the Government in the matter of development of cottage industries must

be changed. This Government could do much, if they wished, towards the development of cottage industries by encouraging spinning. This is now admittedly a necessity in times of war. The Bengal Branch of the All-India Spinners' Association needs encouragement at the Government's hands. I am afraid Government do not care to know its working. The grants under the heads "Agriculture" and "Industries" are too inadequate. What is now required is the growth of long-staple cotton. The Government has not done anything in this direction. I want to draw the attention of Government to the inadequacy of the agricultural loans and the gratuitous relief in the flood-affected areas of the province of Bengal. I know of deaths due to starvation in my district of Tippera. I have personally witnessed the miseries and I know also of the lamentable conditions of the agriculturists and labourers and of the middle-class people, even now in the affected areas. Unless further loans are given and fresh gratuitous relief be granted, there will be no ploughing or sowing in the affected areas of our district causing great hardship, and in that case there will be many deaths from starvation. The provision for agricultural loans is too inadequate. Immediately loan should be given. Before I sit down shall I add to the shame of the Government by referring to the abuse and misapplication of the Defence of India Rules when I know in this matter this present Ministry is powerless? They have abdicated the power in favour of the bureaucratic Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service though they are responsible for their misdeeds. May I know if they will check it or allow it to be passed in their name?

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for his Budget. I am aware that it is only possible for a man of Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee's calibre even to present a Budget like this on behalf of the Cabinet which is presided over by a gentleman who has lost completely his mental equilibrium and who has never been notable for his political steadfastness. Sir, I agree with the Hon'ble the Finance Minister so far as his nation-saving principle is concerned. I also entirely agree with the previous speaker that this Ministry has failed and completely failed to do justice to its so-called principles of nation-saving. Sir, this war is a menace to humanity but its evils and horrors are not unmixed. This war has also come to the rescue of many, particularly of this Government which owes its existence to the continuance of the war.

Sir, we know that it is not possible for this Government to reveal in its Budget any real constructive genius, but taking advantage of war it has given a complete good-bye to every kind of nation-building affair in the name of nation-saving. Sir, it is a bad thing not to do any good thing but it is painful to see them not to do a good thing, only to hide a bad thing. Sir, we are aware of the difficulties of a people in times of modern totalitarian war, of a people who are

thoroughly unarmed and can do nothing whatsoever to protect their homes and hearths. Government has allotted a huge amount for A.R.P. and other work but it has not been able to acquaint us with any constructive and large scale scheme for these things. We feel, Sir, that the urgent need to save our people is to make large scale arrangements for general evacuation. I do not think Government has paid any attention to this.

Apart from the war we find in the Budget that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has assigned nearly a lakh of rupees for restoring and maintaining communal harmony. We are very much apprehensive, Sir, knowing the nature of the constitution and the Government, knowing the way how it has come into power, that this one lakh of rupees allotted to be spent for communal harmony and restoration of communal peace will be spent for creating communal bitterness. If the leaders of this Cabinet, at least the leaders of the Hindu section of this Cabinet, were really anxious to maintain communal harmony, they should never have followed the path they have chosen for themselves. If it was really the desire of our friends, the leaders of the Hindu community opposite, to establish communal harmony and to restore and maintain it, they ought to have realised that communal harmony is not created by forming this coalition with traitors of a community. It only creates bitterness. Communal harmony and peace will come by itself without any effort, without spending a single pice, if they stick to their political and moral scruples. If I understand modern politics and the constitution of parties it can only come when there is a real understanding between the Congress, the great and mighty organisation representing the Hindus and the Muslim League representing the Muslims of India. Any other step will create nothing but communal bitterness. On the basis of this observation I have every reason to believe that this one lakh of rupees will be spent and is being spent to create communal bitterness by patronising journals like "Nava Jug" and by patronising and encouraging other things and will be spent by introducing corruption inside the Legislature and outside it.

Sir, I would request the leaders of the Hindu community sitting opposite to realise the present menace that is facing us and to rise equal to the task and should not close their eyes on hard realities. War is nearer and God knows what will happen within a short time. It may be that the city in which we are sitting will have bitter experience. I would request and beseech Government not to misuse and take advantage of the horrors of the war that are coming very near us but to take serious steps to save the people from the horrors and to vigorously take steps for peaceful general evacuation from the city.

Sir, I may point out one more item in the Budget which has been completely neglected and shelved in the name of nation-saving, I mean

the secondary education. Knowing what has happened to the Secondary Educational Bill I do not want to deal with that in detail, but, Sir, ever if the Secondary Education Bill which the previous Government wanted to introduce be not introduced now in the name of restoring communal harmony, what about the existing system of secondary education? Has the Government any justification to neglect that also? We find that the Budget has simply allotted some money for the reconstruction and repairs of damage of buildings. I agree with the previous speaker that perhaps in the name of nation-building it is the desire of the Government to starve the existing almost starving secondary schools in villages and in rural areas. We very well knew that since the portfolio of education has now been transferred from the Hon'ble Chief Minister to some other gentleman the Budget will not give us anything great so far as that part of the administration is concerned. This Government will now perhaps concentrate all the energy on the Home Department since that is the department which the Hon'ble Chief Minister has chosen to take for himself, and in this connection I can once again repeat that all sorts of corruption will be found in its day-to-day administration, particularly in relation to the measures known as the Defence of India Rules which have been referred to by the previous speaker.

Now, Sir, the gentlemen sitting opposite had always blamed us when we were sitting there occuping the Treasury Benches that we were bureaucratic, we were slaves of the Indian Civil Service, we were anti-national, we were retrograde. Well, this Government claims to be progressive. Let us for argument's sake accept the charges that they hurled on us from this side when we were there, but may I ask the Hon'ble Chief Minister and other Ministers to say honestly whether they have introduced any change in the attitude of the Government so far as the Home Department is concerned. Will the Hon'ble Finance Minister and his colleagues—I do not ask the Hon'ble Home Minister because I know that we can never expect any fair and honest reply from him and we have learned not to believe anything of what he says, not a word, not a sentence——(The Hon'ble Dr. SHYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Since when have you come to learn this?) Since he has committed the gravest crime in the history of Bengal, since he has betrayed his community we do not believe a single word he utters and we do not attach any importance to his word. But, Sir, we can expect that leaving aside the Chief Minister the other gentlemen in the Cabinet, particularly the Hindu section about whom we have nothing to say at present, will be honest and give us an honest reply as to whether they had been able to introduce any change whatsoever, so far as the administration of the Home Department is concerned. We find that the Ministry is pushing on with the Defence of India Rules more vigorously than the previous Government used to do and it is using the Defence of India

Act just to create communal bitterness in the name of restoring communal harmony and suppressing and oppressing the people just as the Nazis do in the name of war.

Sir, I do not want to take much more time in the general discussion of the Budget. (Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKER: That is better!) Yes, it is better to save your face also, because after all we are friends of yours and it is also our duty not to expose you very much. Particularly my friend Mr. Abu Hossain Sarker is a good friend of mine, and I do not want to expose him. I want to be frank. I have no grievances against anybody. Our party has not committed any political dishonesty. They have been *prajas* all along and they are *prajas* now and they have not betrayed anybody.

Sir, I do not intend to speak in detail as other friends who are aware of the figures and other things will perform that task. But I would appeal to my friends opposite, namely, Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed and other independent Hindus, my friends Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu and Mr. P. N. Banerjee to think over the matter if they are really anxious to establish communal harmony in the province. I would appeal to them that if they really want to restore and maintain communal harmony they should take care that they are not misguided by their Chief and that they may not quite unnecessarily have to go out of their way to help their Chief to remain in power, so that the communal harmony may not be disturbed and communal bitterness created.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Stark, is there anybody in your group who will speak to-day?

Mr. A. F. STARK: Not to-day, Sir.

Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM: Sir, I do not like to emulate my friend who has just sat down, but I should like to congratulate my learned friend the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the excellent manner in which he has presented the Budget Estimates of the Government of Bengal for the year 1942-43. It is certainly not my purpose speaking in the House——

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Sir, we cannot hear him. Let him go to the microphone.

(The member went to the microphone.)

Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM: Sir, I am not in favour of a long speech at the time of the general discussion of the Budget. It is hardly necessary for me to apologise on behalf of the party. I am not here to introduce myself

either to my friends or to the members of the European Group or others. I may assure you, Sir, that I will not follow my friend who has just sat down and I will not use language which is not parliamentary. I can also assure you that it will not be my purpose at this stage to go into any matter which will cause any disturbance to any side of the House.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member has said that he will not follow me and will not use expressions which are not parliamentary. If I had used any unparliamentary expressions, you, Sir, must have interfered and since you have not interfered the honourable member is not justified in saying so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Anwarul Azim should be allowed to continue. I hope that he will not use any unparliamentary expression.

Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM: Now, Sir, coming to the Budget as a whole, I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the excellent manner in which he has presented the Budget of the Government of Bengal under the present critical circumstances. It will not be fair for anybody, least of all for my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, to say that the Ministry does not come out with anything truly unique which can catch the imagination not only of the public outside but also of the people in the galleries and lobbies. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the party which I have the privilege to belong should not be held guilty for this, because if all the facts are taken into consideration I am certain that the House will admit that the Hon'ble Finance Minister had no other choice but to come out with the present Budget under existing circumstances. Is not the situation really critical?

From the books published you will find, Sir, that the Budget Estimates will amount to a little over 16 crores of rupees. Of course, Sir, by way of a suggestion to the Ministry I may say that if they deal with the different heads in a more liberal manner, that will cause some sort of pleasant feeling in the minds of the people outside. In this connection I would recommend to the Ministry that if really they mean business, which I think they do, the requirements under the head "Revenue" might be modified and changed so as to give some relief to the people who have been clamouring for changes in the revenue law.

Coming to the other heads on the Receipt Side, I think, Sir, that it will be pertinent for me to point out—I hope it has also reached the ears of Government—that the administration under the head "Forest" could be improved if proper and systematic arrangements could be made in a stricter way for realisation of their dues under that head. The same could be said strongly with regard to the income under the head

"Excise". If the Ministry is able to give more attention to details, the methods of receipts under the various items in the Budget can be modernised with stricter control over the administration, I am certain that some relief can be given under the head "Revenue". I only want to suggest that it would not be right for the present Government to say that the particular measure known as the "Sarker Tax" is an absolute necessity because from the papers it will be seen that the "Sarker Tax" has not brought in much revenue into the coffers of the Government. It has not been a very big figure. If this tax is causing annoyance and irritation to the general public, mostly middle class people, who have been paying cesses of all kinds, then it should be a matter for the serious consideration of Government.

Coming to the remarks made by my friend Mr. Datta I want to say one or two words also. My friend Maulvi Abul Hashim from Burdwan has said some unkind remarks about those who have out of principle and conviction allied themselves with the party in power. My honourable and learned friend from Comilla has said that certain sums of money have been given and that partiality has been shown to the European warders in certain jails. Of course I think as a veteran politician he should know the circumstances under which we live in this Presidency. As a matter of fact as I said in the beginning we are members of a non-sovereign law-making body and I do not think that the Ministry, circumstanced as it is, can carry on any other policy than the policy which has been adopted by the Ministry. A fling has also been thrown by the second speaker in regard to the "communal harmony" proposals of Government. I can assure him that this sort of tirades will not serve the purpose which we all have in view. As a matter of fact, Mr. Abul Hashim must know really that the members on this side of the House are much stronger Leaguers than he himself (Cries of "ha, ha" from the Opposition Benches.) As a matter of fact, "ha, ha" will not do. If my friend, Sir Nazimuddin had a little patience he will realise soon who are the real leaders of the community. That being the case nothing much is going to be gained by depicting us as traitors. It will be hardly necessary for me to reply to that kind of remark. At the time of my election from Chittagong South Muhammadan Constituency I may say here and now all the forces were ranged against me and yet I am here. I may add that nothing can deviate us from the path which we have been following on principle.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Why don't you resign your seat now?

Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if anybody views things impartially he will certainly realise that the Ministry has no other choice but to do what is being done. That being the case I won't take up the time of the House any longer. I hope

friends opposite will live to learn and that the lesson would not be forgotten by the gentlemen sitting behind Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin.

Mr. I. D. JALAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt about the fact that the Budget presented by the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee is not so inspiring as was expected by the country from the new Ministry. But we must give proper allowance for the fact that it is barely two months ago that the Ministry took charge of the administration of this province and as has been stated by the Hon'ble Finance Minister there were only barely three weeks during which he had to consider the Budget proposals. We accept the explanation of the Hon'ble Finance Minister for not presenting to this House something spectacular so as to stifle the criticism which is being levelled against the Ministry for the Budget. The second factor with which we are faced to-day is the international situation which is unprecedented in the history of this country and especially of this province. Sir, we are meeting to-day under the shadows of a great catastrophe which is not only overtaking the whole world but which is so near to us that every man who is in this city or in this province or in this House is deeply concerned with the future of our country. A large portion of the income has been devoted to the Civil Defence purposes but that will not be the end of our efforts in this direction. It is unfortunate, Sir, that the statesmanship of the British Government has failed at this juncture: otherwise we would not have seen the sight of our sad plight to which we have been put to-day. The British Empire boasted of an Empire in which the Sun never set, an Empire which comprised within its limits a great portion of the population of the world and now under the protection of the British Empire we 40 crores of Indians are here looking helpless and aghast at what is happening beyond our frontiers to-day. But this situation has been the result of the short-sighted policy which has been followed by the British Government towards India. India has yearned for freedom and has yearned for its liberation but that freedom and that liberation has not been vouchsafed by the British Government to us The result is the apathy and complacence in the population of this country. The fight cannot go on without the people putting its whole heart into the struggle. Where is the heart to come from when it finds that the struggle is not a struggle for its emancipation? It is not a struggle by which—by making the sacrifices which they are called upon to make—they will make India independent and free. We have had enough of promises from the British Government and the history of the past has belied our expectations. There is no use shutting our eyes to the bare fact that the policy of the British Government has embittered the relationship between the people and the Government. I will not be wrong if I

say that the history of the past one year has made the position more and more bitter and the result is more and more apathy on the part of the people of this land. But that is a matter which it is for the British Government to decide. There are mighty forces now at work, and we cannot foresee as to what is going to happen. So far as the policy of the Bengal Ministry is concerned, certainly it has got its own duties to perform. If one comes to Calcutta, he will find that Calcutta is now the deserted village of Goldsmith. If you go to the business quarters you will find that business is absolutely paralysed. And if this state of affairs goes on I doubt very much whether the expected revenue income will ever materialise. But so far as the Calcutta people are concerned, they are not satisfied with the civil arrangements that have been made to protect the people from air-raids that are imminent in this city. The Commander-in-Chief already stated a few days ago that India may suffer not only from bombs and air-raids but it may suffer from the effects of naval bombardments and of actual landings, i.e., invasion. So far as naval bombardments and actual invasion by land are concerned, the present Ministry cannot help it. It is the British Government which took the responsibility of protecting this country from foreign aggression. It is up to the British Government to provide the means wherewith to protect us from outside attacks. If it cannot protect us the British Government fails in its duties towards this country. The British Government has not provided us with the sinews of war with which we will fight against the enemy. If it had provided us with that, the forty crores of Indians would have risen to a man and given a good thrashing to those who wished to invade us. If we have not been provided with the necessary industries and with arms and ammunition, if we have not been provided with those necessities which are essential for present-day warfare, it is due to no fault of ours. It is the fault of the British Government which is the custodian of our safety and integrity of this country. But so far as internal affairs are concerned, the Ministry has got to take effective measures. Sir, the portfolio of Civil Defence has been given to my friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu, but I do say, the other day the Hon'ble Speaker himself had to complain that even the Civil A.R.P. arrangements in this House are not satisfactory. Can condemnation go any further? Even when in this House in which we are sitting, the A.R.P. arrangements are not satisfactory, how can you convince the outside world that the Government is properly performing its duties at this hour of crisis. As a matter of fact there is more of panic and there is more of indignation at the half-hearted measures which are being adopted in this important matter. I do expect, however, that the Ministry will take time by the forelock and protect the citizens of this great city and this vast province from the depredations and ravages which are imminent.

The next question I wish to refer to is communal harmony. I do not for one moment accept the position that the Congress, as has been stated by one of the speakers, is a Hindu organisation—(Mr. ABDULLAH-AL MAHMOOD: Certainly it is!) I say, certainly it is not. It will belie its past, it will belie its future if at any moment the Congress takes up the position that it is a Hindu organisation. That is the greatest stumbling block which has been put into the path of communal settlement by the leader of the Muslim League party, Mr. Jinnah. Mr. Jinnah wants that the Congress should come to him in order to have a communal settlement, accepting the position that the Congress is a Hindu organisation. A settlement could have been reached long ago, had not Mr. Jinnah taken up that untenable position which will never be acceptable to the Congress. The Congress is an organisation which has fought for the liberty and independence of this country for the last fifty years. The Congress is the only political organisation which seeks, not the independence of one community or the other, but the liberation and emancipation of the entire nation. It may have achieved its purpose, had our friends of the Muslim League party agreed to a settlement on this question. But so long as that question is not solved, I welcome the proposal of the Ministry to spend one lakh of rupees—it is not a very heavy sum—in order to promote communal harmony in this country. Had there been a settlement between the Muslim League and the Congress without the impediment of the Congress accepting the humiliating position of being a Hindu organisation, we, the Hindus and Muhammadans of this country, would have forced the British Government to concede our demands. If India does not enjoy independence to-day it is not due to the fault of the Congress, but it is due to the fault of the leader of the Muslim League party by asking the Congress to accept the position that it is a Hindu organisation. He will first of all expect the Congress to accept the humiliating position that it is a Hindu organisation, and then and then alone he will talk to it on the question of Hindu-Moslem settlement. Therefore I say with all the responsibility that I can command that if India does not enjoy independence to-day it is due to the impossible proposition made by Mr. Jinnah with a view to evading this question. If India to-day suffers from the want of it, the responsibility is his and not ours. Therefore, if the Ministry spends one lakh for communal harmony there should be no carping criticism about it. My friend has said that there cannot be communal peace and harmony unless and until there is a talk of compromise with us. But when we in the Congress approach you, you take up the position that unless we fall at your feet there cannot be any compromise. That is an impossible proposition. Therefore, so long as we have to meet the present situation we welcome the proposal of the present Ministry which is the only popular Ministry in the course of the last four years

of provincial autonomy, and which enjoys the confidence of a large majority of the people not only of the Hindus, not only of the Krishak-Projas but even of those who belong to the Muslim League organisation. Therefore, we cannot deny the fact that the present Ministry enjoys the confidence of a vast majority of the people of this province, and we do hope that the Ministry which may be called a National Ministry at present will show its merit, will show its worth, at this hour of our peril——(Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Then why don't you cross the floor and go over to the other side?) That is because we enjoy an independent position and we shall support the Ministry so long as it does good to the people. But we will oppose the Ministry if it goes wrong, as the outgoing Muslim League Ministry did in this House. We hold the position of an impartial critic of governmental activities in this House and therefore there is no question of our going over to the other side. We shall do our duties in a manner which appears proper to us and we do not want any dictation from our friends towards our left. The position is that the present Ministry must face the fact that the income from the Sales Tax cannot be as great as was expected because practically the whole of the trade of this province has been paralysed and business is at a standstill. Therefore they will expect very little from the Sales Tax and the other taxes as well. We protested against the imposition of the Sales Tax when the Sales Tax Bill was passing through this House and we do now expect that the present Ministry will consider as to whether it is possible to give any relief in respect thereof. There is then another tax, namely, the raw jute tax. The past Ministry had told the House that this tax was not going to be levied from the growers but you will be surprised to find that the mills are making it one of the conditions in the contracts with the sellers that the latter will have to pay the two annas tax. It was originally expected that the mills will bear this tax and the exporters and other countries which will purchase this commodity will pay this tax. But, as a matter of fact, on account of this new clause in the contract, the sellers have to pay this 2 annas tax and the sellers in their turn pass this on until it has to come out of the growers' pocket. This is one of the questions which the Ministry will have to consider when a tax which was originally levied with the avowed purpose of not falling upon the grower is really falling upon the grower.

I do not wish to indulge in any detailed criticism or approval of the Budget as it stands because this will be considered when the cut proposals will be there. But I do draw the attention of the Ministry to the necessity of providing adequate Civil Defence for its population, promoting communal harmony to the best of its ability and giving as much relief as is possible. The present times are such that we cannot

expect very much in these circumstances, but we do hope that the Ministry will do its best so as to justify the confidence which the country has placed in it.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Sir, the Budget to my mind is a metropolitan Budget. I am a villager and from my standpoint the Budget is a hopeless document. What has gone to the metropolis of Calcutta is more than what has been provided in total for the one lakh of villages in the mofassal. Mr. Huq was a man of the village of Chakhar, but he has converted that village into a town. For that he is a convert now—a convert now of Dr. Mookerjee, not because he has changed his religion but because Dr. Mookerjee has given his village much more than what Mr. Huq could expect. If Mr. Suhrawardy yielded before the audacity of Mr. Huq, now there is a competition between Dr. Mookerjee and Mr. Huq in making the metropolis of Calcutta and the village town of Chakhar prosperous

من ترا حاجی بگویم تو مرا حاجی بگو

"আমি তোমাকে হাজী বলিব, তুমি আমাকে হাজী বলিও" was the watchword with the two swindlers. They started on a *safar*, they cheated the people and got money in conspiracy and now these two stalwarts of Bengal have adopted this policy to advantage. Bengal villagers be bled white with taxations and let Calcutta and Chakhar prosper. Villagers talked through Fazlul Huq some day—now the talk is silenced. Dr. Syamaprasad has therefore an easy sailing. When I say this, I must point out that the first item of income in the Budget is from Customs. Estimate is for Rs. 125 lakhs. What is this money? It is the share of Bengal according to Niemyer Award received from the Centre as a share—62½ per cent. of the jute tax. Who grew this jute? Dr. Syamaprasad will say, he and his ancestors. Mr. Huq does not dispute So, it is the money of the citizens of Calcutta and must be spent for Calcutta and for the metropolitan noble people is the decision of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, but everybody knows that Dr. Syamaprasad had no touch with jute or jute lands. Money came from the villagers as being reduction in the price of jute and must therefore go to the villagers to remove the ailments due to steeping of jute in rivers, in tanks, and in beels and fresh water must be given them in lieu thereof is probably not an incorrect proposition.

The next substantial income is from Land Revenue. It amounts to Rs. 367 lakhs. Dr. Syamaprasad will claim it as being money received from zemindars living in the city. The say will go *ex parte* from the Cabinet. Mr. Shamsuddin has forgotten his lesson. Mr. Huq is by contract bound. Land is of no value by itself and Calcutta lands produce little of revenue. Cultivators toil and moil days in and days out and it is they who grow and who pay the revenue as being share of

the produce. The middle men and zemindars are not the producers of wealth. They are only parasites—profit-seeking people feeding themselves upon the ignorance of the people and the tyranny of one-sided legislation. This money, therefore, is the money of the villagers, I aver. Dr. Syamaprasad may not agree.

Provincial Excise brings 182 lakhs. Who are the people to pay? The poor wrecks of the villages pay the largest share is my assertion.

Forest gives us 26 lakhs. Forest is not here in the city.

Registration yields 28 lakhs. Documents are made in all the 28 districts.

Other Taxes and Duties will give us 194 lakhs, the Budget says. What are these taxes? Entertainment Tax, Betting Tax, Electricity Duty, Finance Tax—that is, tax on professions and callings—Sales Tax, Motor Spirit Sales Tax and Raw Jute Tax. Of these, Entertainment Tax gives us 8, Betting Tax 11, Electricity Duty 21, tax on professions and callings 12, Sales Tax 100, Motor Spirit Sales Tax 5 and Raw Jute Tax 37 lakhs of rupees.

Whatever nonsense may be said, the Raw Jute Tax affects the grower and the income is, therefore, one coming from the villages. The Sales Tax of a crore of rupees is given by a lakh of villages as opposed to the town of Calcutta and the shares can very well be apportioned. The villagers' share will be overwhelmingly larger than the town peoples'. The burden of Entertainment Tax, Betting Tax, Electricity Duty, Finance Tax on professions and callings, Motor Spirit Sales Tax are shared by the village folk also.

I do not like to dilate upon it any further, but it is a plain truth that the income of the State is derived principally from the one lakh of villages. The villagers, however, do not know if there is yet a Government for them. They die in thousands and suffer in millions. They have not a drop of water to drink. Malaria and kala-azar cause havoc in the countryside every year. The ignorance of the people is colossal. Even 5 per cent. of the people do not know to read and write. Co-operation of the Co-operative Department they do not know. Anything said about it is not understood. They live on agriculture. They use the implements of Adam's time. Their cattle also are equally weak and infirm. They are helpless against the inclemencies of weather. Flood causes disaster, draught causes destruction of the crop, famine is a matter of yearly occurrence in the countryside. The average village is never visited by a servant of the Crown. If an agricultural demonstrator lives in a subdivisional town, he never knows his business. In imitating the habit of his boss he will put on hat and shoes and being afraid of the mud he will never enter a village.

People are now overburdened with taxation, but taxation does not give them anything in return. What is the condition in the village side? In my constituency for which probably I can speak with authority, I mean the subdivision of Goalundo, there was famine in 1938. The year 1939 was not a year of prosperity. Again there was famine in 1940. 1941 was a year of very meagre production and people were already on the verge of starvation. But who is going to look after the people? My headquarters Rajbari is notorious for malaria and any Government officer who is unwilling to go there and if placed there under compulsion flies away at the earliest opportunity. What are you going to do there for the amelioration of the condition of the people? There has been criminal neglect in the past, there is culpable neglect now. The day is fast coming when desolate villages will contribute nothing to your exchequer and you will realise then the situation. You held out an olive branch to the villagers and imposed taxes in quick succession—financial tax on professions and callings, Sales Tax, the Raw Jute Tax, etc. You assured the people that all the money derived from taxation will go to the villages for nation-building purposes. The primary education cess was already there. You promised augmentation from provincial revenues, so that every child in the village could receive primary education free of all charges. You promised the supply of pure water in the course of three years to every village. You promised to prevent outbreak of malaria and kala-azar and promised the treatment of diseases in the village area. But alas, ease retracts the vows made in pain. Your promises have gone for nothing.

The Budget provided for Rs. 10 lakhs for rural water-supply in 1941-42 before these taxations were imposed. In 1942-43 the same amount has been provided in the Budget. The head "Primary Education" got an amount of Rs. 45 lakhs in 1941-42 and now the figure increases by a glorious figure of Rs. 5 lakhs for over 5 crores of people in Bengal. Then, Sir, for medical relief a scheme was thought out for 1941-42 at a cost of Rs. 1,50,000, the money will not be spent. Now that thought is given up and a glorious figure of Rs. 75,000 has been provided in the Budget for 1942-43. Coming to quinine we find that a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs has been provided in this Budget as in the Budget of 1941-42, in spite of the imposition of so heavy taxations. Rupees 2,60,000 has been provided for anti-malarial measures, for kala-azar Rs. 1,20,000, and Rs. 30,000 has been provided under the head "Epidemics". The provisions are the same as in the year 1941-42. The net result is in the face of heavy taxations barring an increase of a paltry sum of 5 lakhs for primary education, all the other nation-building purposes have got nothing.

One thing is prominent, i.e., madrasah education. Unfortunately the provision made last year was not of a recurring nature. The

madrasahs got only Rs. 34,000 last year for building grant, non-recurring, i.e., for repairing of buildings. This year that has been withdrawn and a grant of Rs. 20,000 is proposed just as a vengeance which is splendid indeed!! The population has increased by 3 crores or probably more according to the present census and these people are to be served by the non-recurring grant of Rs. 20,000 with the withdrawal of Rs. 34,000 granted last year for madrasah education—education for which the Muslims are so much anxious and for which we have been dying and crying hoarse. The Premier also made promises lavishly here, there and everywhere in the metropolis and the villages and to the Maulvi Sahibs and Maulana Sahibs and to everybody in the world. The position is this. The Education Minister, Khan Bahadur Sahib is sitting over there——.

(At this stage the red light was lit and the member was allowed to speak for two minutes more.)

We are anxious to have this madrasah education. You cannot neglect it, you must not neglect it because on that depends our life and soul. We care for our soul, we care for our body also. In madrasah we get food for our body and for our soul. You are telling us any amount of nonsense, but we shall never care for them. We must have madrasah education. Neglect is criminal. You cannot indulge in this criminality any more. You must come forward. How long will you neglect, Sir?

Then, Sir, in the Select Committee on Sales Tax Bill we cried hoarse. My note of dissent is significant. That was the sense of the House. That was the promise of the Hon'ble Minister. It reads as follows: "Illiteracy is a curse, people in rural area are dying and the water scarcity is appalling. Our support is with this measure if only the income from it is utilised exclusively for the following purposes in the order given below:—

(1) Primary Education.

(2) Rural medical relief.

(3) Rural water-supply."

But, Sir, we did not care for famine. We did not care for the fact that the people were unable to pay. We gave consent to taxation with the expectation that the villagers would get the benefit. But alas, the pen has changed hands. Now the talk is not for the village, but for the town only. Let the villages go to ruin!! Calcutta should be saved from the onslaught of the enemy!! The whole of Calcutta has been provided with superfluity of water, dispensaries, hospitals, camps and protection walls and all other amenities of life and at a cost of over 4 crores of rupees.

Could you not conceive that it was not your business? It was surely the business of the Central Government. The enemies shall be fought by the Central and not by the Provincial Government. The injury caused by the enemy shall be repaired by the Central Government. Prevention and cure—on both these scores the responsibility rests with the Government at Delhi.

If responsibility is shifted it must be shifted to the people themselves. The Calcutta Corporation must have supplied water and must have provided for medical and other relief. To rob Peter to pay Paul is not a good policy.

(At this stage the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. C. GRIFFITHS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in spite of the Budget for the year 1942-43 showing a deficit of Rs. 1 crore and 5 lakhs, I think we should congratulate ourselves that it is not worse considering the present world crisis.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister rightly says that his Budget is in the nature of a War Budget, since Civil Defence of considerable magnitude has to be dealt with. It is as well that the expenditure under this head is supplemented by the Central Government for the amount is 4 crores of rupees, otherwise, the province would be confronted with fresh taxation.

Our thanks should go out to the previous Finance Minister, Mr. Suhrawardy, who had the courage and foresight to present the Sales Tax Bill which no doubt made him very unpopular but which nevertheless with other two Bills, the Motor Spirit Tax and the Raw Jute Sales Tax stand us in good stead to-day It is also gratifying to find the new Ministers from the previous Opposition, taking over Government responsibility and talking about War measures and working in co-operation with our old stalwart, the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq, the Premier of Bengal. It is needless to criticize details regarding the Budget expenditure when the Finance Minister tells us that instead of Nation Building he has had to deal with Nation saving; so it will be better if we dilate more on the war situation.

We were deeply impressed by the Finance Minister's reference to the fall of Singapore and of his informing us how England clasped the hand of Russia in spite of bitter differences in the past to fight a dangerous common enemy, and so perhaps we have the Huq-Muk Ministry. But why do Indians exclude the British minority? Shaking hands has not made England Bolshevik; nor has it made Russia Imperialistic; nor have the Muslims agreed to a Hindu Raj or the Hindus to the Pakistan scheme. What we want is not a change of method but a change of heart. To solve our problem in India the

majority rule of our Parliamentary system, our active unity must be efficient, that means, that the rights and claims of every section of an Indian nation must be given full and complete expression in a national Government, in our national war effort.

We do not want the rule observed in the letter only, but also in the spirit; otherwise, there is no crueller tyranny than that which is perpetrated under the shield of law and in the name of justice. China as a majority nation does not rule the world. No country is governed by its uneducated masses. The rank and file of the Army and Navy do not direct their officers. Rulers are not more numerous than the ruled. Our Cabinet consist of a mere dozen out of 250, but it should be a representative one. Why must the rights of important minorities be sacrificed?

Before we consider whether China and the Pacific should be dominated by Russia or Japan, or Germany be permitted to force her way into the Middle East and act as a buffer between the Moslem States under the influence of France and Russia, India must be cohesive by including the European and Anglo-Indian minorities in their Cabinets and work together as an integral part of the British Empire, otherwise, we work at cross purposes with Quislings in our midst and thus destroy ourselves.

Let us take a lesson from China's internal strife. China has had 30 years of turmoil of military dictatorships. Before that, it had an absolute monarchy and Marshal Chiang-Kai-Shek had to fight his rivals before he became supreme, but to-day his country is weakened and is a prey to the enemy.

It is very interesting to find that a lakh of rupees has been provided to promote communal harmony. One wonders if social functions among the leaders could bring about the desired result. To be gracious and kind begets trust, to be a snob and an upstart engenders hatred. But can men change their natures overnight?

Let us remember the words of Mr. Churchill, the one fault, the one crime, will be the weakening in our purpose and, therefore, in unity.

With a victorious Japan in the Far East and a successful Germany in the Middle East, when the order of things changes, aggression replaces toleration. What hope has India of Dominion Status within the Empire? Therefore my only advice to the leaders is to forget the past and to work with the minorities, to work with the powerful British minority in India.

England may be isolated to-day, but England stands invincible. Let us be an asset to her in her hour of need and not a liability. An exhausted Japan and Germany will be glad to sue for peace, to try and keep what they have taken for they must realise to grab more is

to lose all. "Live and let live" must be their motto. It has so far been a fight between the "Have nots" and the "Haves", and so perhaps England has not extended itself specially since the Empire is divided. It now falls to the lot of the Indian politicians to play a most important part. Will they strengthen or weaken the hands of England by uniting or by non-co-operating and so we find China's Supreme War Lord interviewing them and placing them on the horns of a dilemma.

We have not only to fight roaring lions—battleships, aeroplanes and tanks but also invisible serpents—traitors and quislings. We may be unprepared for the former but we cannot afford to be unprepared for the latter. Our only solution is: Let India be united. Let India consider the minority question and so attain Dominion Status within the British Empire, as promised by England.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I took part first in the discussions of the Budget in 1937. Since then, like a dumb and mute show of theatre, I entered into the "Aye" lobby and the "No" lobby with the Ministerial Party. I take my stand to-day to utter something about the Budget presented by the new Government. At the outset, I congratulate the Finance Minister on the presentation of his budget which, in my opinion, is quite a good budget under the abnormal circumstances and within such a short time of his acceptance of office Members have fought shy and a new personnel is now on the *gadi* of Ministers. But I make bold to say that on a perusal of the Budget I find that the policy of the Government is the same. There is absolutely no change in the policy and programme of the Government although we find a new personnel on the *gadi*. (Here many members of the Opposition interjected.) It is an irony of fate that the members who are now interjecting were with me on this side of the House and fought with me but to-day they are commenting on the Budget from a different angle of vision. Although Maulvi Ahmed Ali Mridha and myself come from the same district we are thinking on different lines and I thank my friends for the interjection which they have utttered.

In the course of my speech, I shall give a reply to these interjections and these taunts. Sir, as I was telling the House, the policy of the Government is the same although there has been a change in the personnel of the Ministry. First of all I shall take up certain items of the Budget but I do not want to tire the House with Budget figures which the honourable members will have an opportunity to go into, at the time of voting on demands in the course of discussion on cut motions. I belong to a village, Sir, and I come from the very interior of a district. I wish, therefore, to refer to matters which affect rural areas, and I will not disturb the House with anything that concerns the urban areas.

I shall take up the "Irrigation" Budget first. I do not, however, think this general discussion has any value. So far back as in 1937 I said something about the dredgers which are still now lying idle in stagnant waters just before my house and just in front of the subdivisional quarters in the district of Faridpur. These dredgers are lying idle there for years and a recurring expense is being incurred on them by Government every year. I made a suggestion to Government either to sell them or to send them somewhere in the Bay of Bengal and convert them into hospitals for tuberculosis patients. Government neither paid any heed to that suggestion of mine nor has it done anything up till now to minimise the recurring expenditure on these dredgers. In the "Red Book" of the Budget one will see that certain recoveries have been made on account of the utilisation of the dredger "Alexander" for dredging the Haridaspur Loop. Sir, the well-known Bil Route Canal in our part is not navigable throughout the year. May I ask what Government has done for dredging the Upper Kumar and keeping this Bil Route Canal, a well-known irrigation channel, navigable? The fact is that although large sums of money have been spent every year on it, it is not navigable. The Upper Kumar has dried up while the dredgers are lying idle although large sums of money are being spent from the Bengal Exchequer every year for these dredgers and their upkeep. I suggest again to-day that Government should take up the work of dredging by using these dredgers and thus keeping the Bil Route Canal navigable throughout the year, and helping drainage flushing as well as irrigation and that Government should not spend money for nothing as it has been doing so long for unproductive purposes each year by maintaining the dredgers in stagnant waters.

Then, Sir, a scheme costing about a lakh of rupees has been hatched in the Secretariat for the drainage of the vast Bil area on the northern side of the Bil Route Canal, but Government has not yet given effect to this scheme: rather, it is curious that Government has asked the District Board of Faridpur to spend Rs 5,000 a year for the maintenance of this small canal, if taken up and dug by Government. May I know from Government why this demand of Rs. 5,000 a year has been made on the poor District Board? If Government can spend a lakh of rupees for the flushing and drainage of this vast Bil area, is it not the duty of Government to spend another Rs. 5,000 annually for the maintenance of that scheme? Will it not help a large number of cultivators by increasing the yield of their crops in that vast area? If the answer is in the affirmative, is it not the duty of Government to find money for the upkeep of the canal after the execution of the scheme? This flushing and drainage scheme for the northern Bil area of the Bil Route Canal is a beneficial scheme no doubt, and I ask the

Hon'ble the Finance Minister and through him the Revenue Minister as well as the Minister of Irrigation to take up this work at an early date.

Sir, my esteemed friend, Mr. Ahmad Ali Mridha, has drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Ministers and also of the House to the havoc caused by malaria, kala-azar and other fell diseases in the district of Faridpur. It would be a horror to hear that at each health unit, of which I have visited many centres, gather patients numbering about 7,500 each morning—patients suffering from malaria, kala-azar and other fell diseases. Sir, our villages have become the breeding ground of these fell diseases on account of the drying up of the local rivers and other water channels. And still the Irrigation Department is silent over it. It is now very busy in connection with the starting of a college for river research and with this thing and that, while the people are dying of ravages of malaria and kala-azar. Government has done nothing up till now for proper drainage and irrigation in the districts of Faridpur, Jessore, Nadia and others where malaria and kala-azar are causing havoc. A study in that college, when established, of river research will not help the poor cultivators and perhaps when this scheme will mature and the college will be established as a full-fledged institution, people will die in thousands and even in lakhs of malaria and kala-azar and the villages will become almost depopulated.

I will now pass on to the Revenue Department. Sir, I tabled a resolution some time ago to the effect that the survey and settlement operations in the districts of Bakarganj and Faridpur should be dropped for the present: unfortunately, however, it could not come up in that session. Then I wrote a letter to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister with regard to certain points and suggestions of mine and I also submitted to each of the Ministers a copy thereof in which I discussed the defects and other things of the survey and settlement operations, but I regret to say that up till now none of the Hon'ble Ministers nor Government has taken any notice of it. If you look at the Budget you will be pleased to know that increased provision has been made this year for revisional survey and settlement operations in the districts of Bakarganj and Faridpur. Sir, in the original settlement the records of rights were prepared by two table works but here in this revisional settlement the records of rights are going to be prepared on the basis of single table work. The present work will be hasty, incorrect and unsatisfactory and the poor cultivators will be plunged into endless litigation, both civil and criminal. I wonder if Government has made an increased provision in the Budget for this purpose!

Then, Sir, the price of paper and the cost of final publication which will be realised from poor tenants and cultivators would be abnormally high. On these arguments I request the Government to drop this settlement at once and save these poor cultivators from litigation and

from the cost of getting these record of rights finally published. As yet we know nothing as to what the Government has done towards it.

Then, Sir, coming to the Department of Industries, I would respectfully submit that a provision was made in the last Budget for the marketing of the cottage industry products but Government did not take any steps whatsoever for this scheme, although a big provision was made and my friends on the other side will be pleased to note that the money is there for non-utilisation. Sir, it is the bounden duty of the Government to see that a proper market is obtained for these products. In the competition they are gradually dying out and it is the duty of the Government to see that this cottage industry thrives and it is the business of the Government to see that their products get a good market, but the Government has absolutely failed in that.

Next, Sir, I come to rural reconstruction. This is a very high sounding word no doubt There is a department of the Government but I would respectfully submit that there is no scheme, no policy and no programme of Government Sir, in the province of the Punjab this rural reconstruction is carried out under the auspices of co-operation but here it is like a patchwork. Under the "General Administration" some money was provided but even that money could not be utilised. I know there are some centres of rural reconstruction; I know there are some centres of adult education; but no adequate grants were made. I regret to say that when I go through the Red Book I find that a sum to the extent of some 80 or 85 thousand rupees is unspent because the District Officers could not utilise the money. They could spend it by giving grants to rural reconstruction centres, to adult education centres, if they had a mind to do it.

Now, Sir, coming to Agriculture and Veterinary Department, I would respectfully submit that it is a very peculiar thing of the Government of Bengal. There is a provision in the Agricultural Budget for animal husbandry. While there is a Veterinary Department in the province why should there be animal husbandry under the Department of Agriculture? This is a novel thing and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you won't see anywhere in the world that where there is a Veterinary Department there is animal husbandry under the Department of Agriculture. It is the duty of the Government to transfer animal husbandry to Veterinary Department.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

One minute, Sir, and I would finish.

Sir, a big sum has been provided in the Budget for communal harmony. I do not think that coins and rupees or Government currency notes will cement communal relationship. It is a matter of the mind and it is a psychological thing. No amount of currency notes can

cement this. Sir, I would respectfully request the Hon'ble Finance Minister that if in his tours he gives a message of good relationship among the communities in the mufassal, that will help and no money will help it.

Dr. J. M. DAS GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in rising to offer a few general comments on the Budget, I want to tell the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that I am fully conscious of the difficulties that beset him. On one side there are commissions as well as omissions of the last Government and on the other there is the deadening influence of the beaurocratic machinery. It is, therefore, not a matter of wonder that this Budget reflects little credit to the genius and virile personality of the framer of this Budget. He has, however, correctly appreciated the very grave and real dangers that are now facing our land and that the primary duty of this Government should be to adopt efficient measures in time so that the maximum effective protection could be secured for the civil population in this province. But I am afraid this Budget both in its planning as well as in its provisions is wholly inadequate to effectively safeguard the province against the dangers of enemy aggression. The happenings in Malaya and South Burma can leave no delusion in the mind of the Finance Minister about this. He speaks of a co-ordinated effort on the part of Government unhampered by traditional red tape, etc., but these brave words notwithstanding the Budget shows that this Government is yet painfully tied up to the beaurocratic chariot wheel. There is the same inflation of the budgetary expenditure and the same large unspent amounts in nation-building departments; there is also the same heavy demands for police and other administrative departments in which I hoped to see drastic reorganisation and retrenchment in his hands.

I shall, however, pass these over for the present and offer a few comments on Civil Defence only. In this sphere the Hon'ble Minister wants us to stand solidly united and face the common danger courageously. But what is the actual position in the country to-day? An attitude of abject defeatism has taken hold of the popular mind. This has resulted in large exoduses from the city and has caused severe dislocation in all branches of economic life in the province. Amongst the causes that have given rise to this there can be no doubt that the Government declarations on the subject have played a most important part. Consequently it must be assumed to have been a planned action on the part of the powers at the helm to bring about this partial paralysis of our economic life. In strange contrast to this in Britain and U. S. S. R. and other places every man and woman found suitable work and is expected to do his or her very best in order to strengthen the national life so that the country may be ready for all eventualities. Then why this difference in policy here? Over there in Europe every

man and woman has been provided with arms. Then why is the Arms Act still in force here even when this mighty and powerful enemy is practically at our door. The policy of distrust and exploitation owing to which the Arms Act is still enforced here, I submit, is wholly unsuited for the present situation and also for the future post-war world reorganisation. Sir, if the continuation of this policy means a distrust of us and a fear of revolt and consequently a determination on the part of the powers at the helm to keep us slaves for all times, then I can clearly see that these Western Democracies will force all Asiatics to range against them in no future date.

Leaving aside the question of policy when we come to the actual Civil Defence, I wish the Hon'ble Minister had been a little more informative. The House does not know who controls this four crores that is in the Budget and who also controls the Civil Defence organisation. Sir, I am not giving away any information, but after the terrible ordeals that all Asiatics in particular had to undergo in Malaya and Burma I have absolutely no doubt that the House would want that the Government of Bengal should assume full control over our provincial Civil Defence and, if necessary, create a new department for this purpose. We do not want to be handed over to the tender care of another Hutchings here.

Coming to details, I am disappointed to see no mention of any plan of insurance either for life or for property. In all countries which face dangers of invasion, the respective Governments have adopted insurance schemes suitable for their economic conditions. Here a partial insurance measure for property has been introduced, but nothing further has yet come out from the legislative anvil at Delhi. Placed as we are, I think that the Bengal Government should help the Central Government by recommending their own scheme of insurance to suit the peculiar economic condition of this province.

As regards the surgical measures of Civil Defence, after a very careful study of the subject I have no hesitation in declaring that we are hopelessly inefficient and hopelessly behind those undertaken in other countries particularly those in Britain. These measures were first based on the experiences gathered in Madrid and Barcelona and have now been improved in the light of fresh experiences in Britain and we cannot do better than adopt them *in toto*. I do not want to go into details at this stage but I have no fear of contradiction when I say that the entire planning of Civil Defence is wholly defective and is not calculated to bring to the populace that safety that we expect to get from Civil Defence measures.

The situation demands that Government should have a clear vision of the task that lies before them and courageously plan to efficiently accomplish it. I know it is a tall order that requires a broad shoulder to carry. But Government should think that they also possess broad

shoulders. They claim that they truly represent the various communities and classes and interests of this province. If it is really a fact then they should courageously go forward and I have no hesitation in saying that if they bring in a comprehensive scheme which is likely to meet the exigencies, the whole country will support them as they hope. I also freely admit that the stirring appeal that the Premier addressed to the nation when he formed this Government found real response in the heart of every true son and daughter of this province. With a sanction like that behind them this Government should proceed with the confidence of universal popular support of the entire nation for any comprehensive measure that they consider necessary for this purpose.

The most important among these are, in my opinion, firstly, measures necessary to secure maximum economic stability even if the war overtakes us I am afraid that there is no indication of any planning in this line from the Hon'ble Finance Minister's Budget Speech. Secondly, I think that the Government of Bengal should assume complete control over Civil Defence; and, thirdly, that Government should recommend immediate repeal of the Arms Act. These too, Sir, I think, should be regarded as a national demand. If the present Government really represent all classes and sections, and communities in this province, if they have that sanction, then I think it is their duty as well as their honour to put forth this national demand. Not only this. It is still more necessary to put forth the demand at present, because the people of our country have been paying huge amounts and large annual exactions have been levied from the Central demands year after year for defence purposes, but when after a good portion of a century it has really become necessary for India to be defended we find that the British Army is wholly inequal to the task and is wholly undependable. From that point of view, I believe that it is the duty of every man and woman of this province to demand that they should be armed so that they should be able to defend their own homes and hearths and not to depend upon something which is not dependable. That is my advice to the Government and I feel that if Government should bring forth any comprehensive scheme on these lines the entire country will be behind them.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. I congratulate him if not for anything else but for his nice closely printed statement containing 24 pages. Being not satisfied with that closely printed statement of 24 pages, he has issued an addendum containing two more pages. I really sympathise with him for the anxiety that he has shown by such statement to make an improvement upon his Budget, especially deal with the two pages of his addendum that he has issued lastly.

He has said that Singapore, as we are told, is impregnable. He has told the British statesmen to realise that the opponents of yesterday may very well become friends of to-day and to-morrow. He has asked the British statesmen to realise that the Indian deadlock must be solved. He has asked the British statesmen to realise that the entire power must be handed over to the Indians at once. I am at a loss to understand how by this statement of his the present Budget of 1942-43 is improved in any way. I do not like to comment any more on his speech with regard to this point, except that the statement has got no relevancy with the Budget. Now I would just like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Defence. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has provided four crores of rupees for Civil Defence. Of these two crores of rupees have been provided for the huge organisation of the A. R. P. May I quote before the House the particular item or items and figures that have been provided for? I do not know how it will help in saving Calcutta from the imminent danger that we are all apprehending. I would welcome that more money ought to have been provided if there had been a possibility of saving the metropolis of Calcutta from the imminent danger that is lying ahead.

May I draw the attention of honourable members of the House to some of the details of expenditure—

	Rs.
Pay and allowances of the A. R. P. Controller, Assistant Controllers and A. R. P. officers	72,000
Expenses of the office of the A. R. P. Controller, etc ...	1,03,000
Pay and equipment for Warden service ..	4,16,000
Casualty organisation .	27,000
Rescue service .	7,43,000
Messenger service ..	14,000
Street fire party service ..	14,91,000

And so on and so forth.

Thus, we come to an expenditure of Rs. 4,01,55,000. But I do not know how the Hon'ble Finance Minister proposes to save Calcutta by the provision of this money for A. R. P. Is there any possibility that Calcutta can be saved? We all know that life is precious and is worth saving. But can he tell this House how the construction of a few trenches and walls, the organisation of warden service or the casualty organisation or the establishment of a few nursing homes or the establishment of some rescue services will save this town? Has the present

Ministry got the arms to fight out the enemy from the metropolis? If not, what useful purpose will be served by wasting this huge sum of money? We know that to them life is not precious and is not worth living in the rural areas where thousands of people are every day dying of kala-azar, of malaria, of small-pox and of other diseases. No provision has been made for the establishment of rural dispensaries. No extra provision has been made for water-supply in the rural areas. No extra provision has been made for improving the sadar and subdivisional dispensaries. Let us hope that the provision of this money will save the lives of hundreds and thousands of people in Calcutta. But will the Hon'ble Minister tell us how the precious lives will be saved? We know how the money will be spent. He himself has said that Rs. 2 crores has been spent on the organisation for A. R. P. If life is so precious—we all admit that life is precious—why does not the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Defence Department who was once the Mayor of Calcutta and who, we have been told, has enormous influence in the city of Calcutta, organise or mobilise a volunteer corps? Why does he not recruit volunteers for these organizations, viz., rescue service, nursing homes, warden service, casualty organisation, street fire parties and so on and so forth. Can Calcutta be saved by spending money only? We would very much like to see that Calcutta is saved if it is attacked. But we know that this will not help them in the least.

Another item which the Hon'ble Finance Minister has provided in the "General Administration" is 1 lakh of rupees for the promotion of communal harmony. I would appeal to him and to the Hon'ble Chief Minister not to try for this promotion of communal harmony. It is better that the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the Hon'ble Chief Minister do not waste this money in the name of promoting communal harmony. It will have a retrograde effect. It will produce a serious effect, and money will be wasted. Money will be spent in travelling allowances and nothing else.

Some money has been provided for the establishment of 207 settlement boards. I think the Hon'ble Finance Minister along with the Minister in charge of Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness knows that the lives of some of these Debt Settlement Boards are going very soon to expire and they are going to be abolished. Why try to establish more Debt Settlement Boards—100 Coperative Debt Settlement Boards and 107 Union Settlement Boards for the rural area? Why not extend the period of old Debt Settlement Boards and why not advise these Settlement Boards to receive applications from co-operative societies, from the co-operative debtors and from other ordinary debtors? Instead of incurring more expenditure for this purpose, instead of creating more Settlement Boards for this purpose, the staff which we have already got, the Debt

Settlement Boards which we have already got, we think and we are of opinion, are quite enough to adjudicate these debts, to settle these debts.

Another thing is this. I am at a loss to understand, much less to follow the speeches of some of my friends opposite. Some of my friends on the right say that the present Ministry is following the same old policy. Some have said that this Ministry was only constituted about two months ago and therefore they have not been able to frame their own policy and present a Budget which will reflect the opinion of the rural people of Bengal. Let us only wait and see how the Hon'ble Finance Minister presents his future Budgets. Let us see whether he is going to follow the old policy or any new policy. With these words I resume my seat.

Adjournment.

It being 10-56 a.m.—

The House was adjourned till 8-30 a.m. on Saturday, the 21st February, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 21st February 1942, at 8-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (MR. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 184 Members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Introduction of education cess in 24-Parganas.

*33A. **Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(a) when was the education cess introduced in the district of 24-Parganas;

(b) the amount of cess realised, year by year, since its introduction and the amount spent in the corresponding period; and

(c) when did this Board actually start work?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION, COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): (a) Education cess was realised with effect from the beginning of the last quarter of 1939-40.

(b) In 1939-40 Rs 60,693-6-10 was realised and expenditure was nil.

In 1940-41 Rs.5,16,151 was realised and expenditure was Rs.3,06,968.

(c) The 3rd July, 1940.

Printing of Holy Quran by non-Muslims.

*34. **Khan Bahadur Maulana AHMED ALI ENAYETPURI:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(i) that the Muslim religious feelings have been wounded by the printing, publishing and selling of the Holy Quran by non-Muslims; and

(*ii*) that the Governments of Sind and North-West Frontier Provinces have recently passed a law forbidding the printing, publishing and selling of the Holy Quran by non-Muslims?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) (*i*) I am aware that certain Muslims object.

(*ii*) I was unaware of the fact.

(*b*) Government do not propose to take any steps.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: With reference to answer (*a*)(*i*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he himself has got any objection to that?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That question does not arise.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: With reference to answer (*a*)(*ii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has taken any action whatsoever to get the information from the Sind Government?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I have not taken any.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of collecting the opinion of representative Muslims—Muslims who are really competent to say on the subject—as to whether the printing, publishing and selling of the Holy Quran by non-Muslims is indeed an offence from the Muslim point of view?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Government do not propose to make any such sort of enquiry.

Grant to Visva-Bharati.

***35. Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state what grants were made to Visva-Bharati out of the Provincial Revenues from 1937-38 to 1941-42, showing the year when such grants were—

(*i*) sanctioned, and

(*ii*) actually paid?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: A statement showing the grants made to this institution from the Education budget is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in starred question No. 35.

Year and date of sanction.	Amount of the grant.	Purpose for which sanctioned.	Date of drawal by the party.
1937-38.	Rs.		
14th May, 1936	2,450	Construction of additional buildings for the Guru Training School at Sriniketan	November, 1937, and February, 1938.
14th May, 1936	1,200	Charge for the supervision of the Guru Training School.	Drawn on monthly basis.
15th November, 1937.	5,000	Construction of hostel for the Santiniketan College.	March, 1938.
1938-39			
15th November, 1937.	2,279	Balance of the grant for construction of hostel.	November, 1938.
14th May, 1936	1,200	Supervision charge for Guru Training School.	Drawn on monthly basis.
28th November, 1938.	5,000	Educational activities ..	January, 1939.
1939-40.			
23rd May, 1938	1,200	Supervision charge for Guru Training School.	Drawn on monthly basis.
24th February, 1940.	25,000	Educational activities ..	March, 1940.
1940-41.			
23rd May, 1938	1,200	Supervision charge for Guru Training School.	Drawn on monthly basis.
21st March, 1941	25,000	Educational activities ..	March, 1941.
1941-42.			
23rd May, 1938	1,000	Supervision charge for Guru Training School.	Up to December, 1941.

Maintenance expenditure of the Lady Brabourne College.

*36. **Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(a) what is the consolidated rate assessed by the Calcutta Corporation for the Lady Brabourne College; and

(b) what is the monthly expenditure for the staff?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (a) Rs.9,279. This assessment is only provisional.

(b) Rs.6,500.

Payment of grants-in-aid to aided schools.

*37. **Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QADIR:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether grants to all aided boys' and girls' schools are being paid in three instalments as required by rule 2(1), Part IV, page 353 of the Bengal Education Code, reprinted in 1941?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for not giving effect to the said rule?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

Recruitment for Bengal Senior Educational Service post in English reserved for Muslims.

*38. **Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether recruitment to the recently advertised post in the cadre of Bengal Senior Educational Service in English and reserved for Muslims was confined to the Bengali candidates only?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Bengal Educational Service and Bengal Senior Educational Service posts are included in the Bengal Provincial Service?

(d) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Provincial Services in other provinces are confined to the residents of the respective provinces?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) No, but it was stated in the advertisement that preference would be given to candidates having permanent residence in this Province.

(*b*) In order that Government might consider the cases of candidates of marked outstanding merit from other provinces along with the cases of candidates from this Province.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) I am not aware.

Travelling expenses of the Hon'ble Ministers.

***39. Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the actual amount spent for travelling expenses within the Province for the Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Bengal from the 1st January, 1940, to the 31st December, 1940, showing the figure separately of each Hon'ble Minister;

(*b*) the actual amount incurred for travelling expenses outside the Province for the Hon'ble Ministers from the 1st January, 1940, to the 31st December, 1940, showing the figure of each Hon'ble Minister separately; and

(*c*) the actual amount incurred for travelling expenses for the Ministers to attend the Jute Conference in Delhi on the 4th December, 1940, and in the month of November, 1940, discussing the jute problem of Bengal with the representatives of the Government of India, showing the figure for each Minister separately?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee): A statement is laid on the Library Table.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why it has been laid on the Library Table and not on this table?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I believe the statement is too long for this table.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, may we expect a statement laid on the Library Table to be laid there one day before because we come here at 8-25 a.m. and therefore cannot go through the matter in such a short time?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I shall certainly look into this matter.

Managing Committee of Dewanganj Co-operative High School.

***40. Mr. ABDUL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the new Managing Committee was elected to the Dewanganj Co-operative High English School, Mymensingh;

(*ii*) whether the newly-elected members have been approved by the District Magistrate; and

(*iii*) whether the Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, has made his nomination of one member to the said Committee?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the reason for the delay in making the nomination; and

(*ii*) when the nomination is likely to be made?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) (*i*) On the 23rd June, 1941.

(*ii*) Yes, on the 27th June, 1941; but on the 27th November, 1941, the District Magistrate extended the term of the old Committee up to the 31st March, 1942.

(*iii*) No.

(*b*) (*i*) Representations were made to the Inspector of Schools as well as to the Registrar, Calcutta University, regarding certain alleged irregularities in the election and reconstitution of the new Committee for which the Calcutta University extended the life of the old Committee pending their final decision in the matter.

(*ii*) Nomination will be made when the final decision of the University is known.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when these representations to the Inspector of Schools and the Registrar of the Calcutta University were made?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice because I do not know the date.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he expects a final decision to be taken on these representations?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The matter is now lying with the University and it is difficult for me to say when their decision will be arrived at.

Clerical posts in Bengal Secretariat and recruitment of non-Bengalis thereto.

*41. **Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the present number of—

(1) permanent, and

(2) temporary

employees of the Bengal Secretariat in the following cadres:—

(1) Upper Division Clerks,

(2) Lower Division Clerks,

(3) Stenographers, and

(4) Typists; and

(*ii*) the total number of—

(1) permanent, and

(2) temporary

non-Bengali employees in each of the abovementioned cadres?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for the appointment of non-Bengalis to these posts?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is a feeling of resentment amongst the Bengalis against the appointment of non-Bengalis in these posts?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of discontinuing the practice of recruitment of non-Bengalis to these posts?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: (*a*) A statement is given below.

	(*i*) Present number.		(*ii*) Non-Bengalis.	
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Permanent.	Temporary.
Upper Division ..	128	30	2	1
Lower Division ..	245	76	4	2
Stenographers ..	25	8	4	..
Typists ..	67	37	3	1

(*b*) The Recruitment Rules for clerical appointments in the Bengal Secretariat do not prescribe any domiciliary qualification and any candidate, if otherwise eligible, may appear at one or other of the examinations by which these appointments are filled.

(*c*) Government has not received any representation indicating a general feeling of resentment.

(*d*) There is no proposal at present for revising the rules.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to inform the House whether Government have taken any steps to see if any feeling of resentment really exists in this province?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: This question relates to the appointments referred to herein and what I have stated is that we have not received any representation indicating a feeling of resentment against the appointment of such a small number of non-Bengalees.

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: If the Hon'ble Minister will read the previous proceedings of this House, will he not find that there was such a feeling of resentment expressed by certain members of this House?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I shall look into the matter and study the proceedings.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: In view of the previous statement of the Hon'ble Minister, will the Hon'ble Minister consult the feelings of the people of Bengal as expressed by certain M.L.As. with a view to securing a redress in the matter?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I shall certainly consult the feelings of the members of this House and if feelings have been expressed in a particular manner, certainly that will be considered by Government.

Realisation of sale tax.

*42. **Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department aware that the shopkeepers are realising three pies per rupee from the customers in excess of the actual price?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: (*a*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the Press communiqué of the 14th November, 1941, and in particular to the following sentence:—"The dealer collects the tax as part of his own cost and the total of his bill, whether the tax is included in the price or is shown separately, is the actual price which the dealer charges for the article."

(*b*) Does not arise.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whther the dealer has any legal or constitutional right to collect the statutory tax from the purchaser?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: The position is, Government collects the tax from the registered dealer and the registered dealer in his turn can recompense himself either from a customer or from an unregistered dealer.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have authorised the dealers to collect this tax on behalf of the Government from the purchasers?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Government has not authorised to collect on behalf of Government any particular tax, but what Government has stated in the communique referred to is that only once the tax will be levied and after the tax has been paid by the registered dealer, it is open to the registered dealer to recompense himself in the manner I have indicated.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that three or four pices are being charged on every rupee of article purchased and the same is written in the bill itself?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Government has no information on that point and certainly it is not allowed.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister enquire into the matter and see if this is not being done?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: If that has been done, the honourable member may refer the particular incidents to Government.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that unregistered dealers are also collecting this tax?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I am not aware of it.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: অনেকগুলো দোকানে Sales Tax অনেক সময় আদায় করা হয় যা বিলের মধ্যে লিখে দেওয়া হয়, আর কতকগুলো দোকানে Sales Tax বলে লিখে দেওয়া হয় না, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানেন কি অনেক সময় Sales Tax এর নামে অনেক দোকানদার অনেকরকম গোলমাল করতে পারে, অতিরিক্ত আদায় করতে পারে ক্রেতাদের কাছ থেকে ?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: It has been represented that perhaps it will be better if the additional price which is included in the bill is regarded as a compulsory feature by Government. If that is the suggestion made, then certainly we shall look into the matter.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: In view of the fact that unregistered dealers are collecting this sale tax from the customers, will Government issue a general communique stating that they may not do such things.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I have explained just now what the position is. Government collects this tax from the registered dealer; the registered dealer in his turn may recompense himself either from the customer if the registered dealer is dealing with the customer directly or from an unregistered dealer if the

registered dealer is selling through an unregistered dealer. Then the unregistered dealer in his turn can only recoup himself from the customer.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of repealing or modifying the sale tax?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: There is no proposal at present for the repeal of the sale tax.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether an assurance was given by the ex-Finance Minister that there would be no realisation of this tax from unregistered dealers?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I am not aware of the assurance given by the ex-Finance Minister, but what I have seen from the files is that the intention of the Government and the intention of the Act is that there will be imposition of the tax only once and I believe that Government is doing all that lies in its power to see that this is done If there have been breaches and if these are brought to the notice of Government, it will certainly look into the matter.

Recruitment of apprentices in the Bengal Government Press.

***43. Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Public Service Commission, Bengal, held an examination for the recruitment of apprentices in the Bengal Government Press for Reading Branch, Hand Composing Branch, Linotype Operators and Monotype Key Board Operators in last July, 1941; and

(*ii*) that every examinee had to pay a fee of Rs.5 for the purpose?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many candidates appeared in the said examination;

(*ii*) how many of them passed the examination;

(*iii*) whether the results of the examination were gazetted or any intimation was given to the passed candidates; and

(*iv*) the method of appointing those passed candidates?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: (*a*) (*i*) An examination was held for the recruitment of apprentices in the Reading, Hand Composing and Linotype Operators Branches. There was no vacancy in the Monotype Key Board Operators Branch.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) 35.

(*ii*) Nine candidates were appointed on the results of the examination which was competitive.

(*iii*) No.

(*iv*) Subject to the provisions of the Communal Ratio Rules, the appointments were filled in the following order:—

Reading Branch,

Linotype Operators Branch, and

Composing Branch,

according to the places gained by the candidates.

Title classes for mufassal madrassas.

***44. Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing, year by year, for the last five years—

(*i*) the number of students who passed the Fazel Examination under the Central Board of Madrassa Examination, Bengal; and

(*ii*) the number of them that have joined the title classes of the Calcutta Madrassa during the period?

(*b*) Is it a fact that every year a large number of Fazel passed Madrassa students cannot avail themselves of higher education in title classes of the Calcutta Madrassa for want of sufficient means?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is an insistent demand from mufassal Madrassas for permision to start title classes?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Committee for enquiry into madrassa education has recommended the granting of the recognition to title classes in mufassal Madrassas on certain conditions?

(*e*) If so, have the Government accepted those recommendations? If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*b*) Government are not aware of any such case.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes, on certain conditions.

(*e*) The matter is under consideration.

Statement referred to in starred question No. 44.

(*i*) Number of students who passed the Fazel Examination under the Central Board of Madrassa Examination, Bengal—

Year.	Number.
1937	233
1938	207
1939	279
1940	211
1941	416

(*ii*) Number who joined the Title Classes of the Calcutta Madrassa—

Session.	Number.
1937-38	56
1938-39	46
1939-40	54
1940-41	49
1941-42	89*

*2 out of 89 came from Allahabad.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With respect to the statement (*a*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of them passed the title examination each year?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: With reference to answer (*b*), is the Hon'ble Minister aware that representation after representation was sent to Government stating that very many of the madrassa students who passed the final examination could not join the title classes because there were no facilities for those classes in the mofassal?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of it.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With respect to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to take note of the fact that there are many students who cannot take admission for want of sufficient means in the title course?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: With reference to question (*c*) that there is an insistent demand from mufassal madrassas for permission to start title classes, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Sharshina Islamia Madrassa in the district of Bakarganj and other madrassas in the district of Noakhali made insistent demand for permission to start title classes whereas Government say "No"?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of it. I have already answered that question.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister make an enquiry into the fact that there have been a number of representations from the Sharshina Islamia Madrassa in the district of Bakarganj to start title classes?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Instead of making an enquiry I would rather prefer to have representation again from these people.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make arrangements for title classes in mofassal notwithstanding the fact that there may be demands from Bakarganj and Noakhali?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: As will appear later on, this is not permissible under the existing rules.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have taken any care to ascertain whether or not a large number of Fazel-passed Maulvis failed to take higher education for want of means?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The question has already been answered, I think.

Maulana MD. ABDUL AZIZ: মাদ্রাসা সেসন পূর্ব্বে জানুয়ারীতে আরম্ভ হোত, যেমন অনেক স্কুল আরম্ভ হয়, এখন D. P. I. জুলাই মাসে আরম্ভ করবার যে অর্ডার দিয়েছেন, সেই অর্ডার দেওয়ার দরুণ মাদ্রাসাগুলো আর ছাত্র পাচ্ছে না, মাদ্রাসাগুলো ধ্বংসের পথে চলেছে। এটা আপনি অবগত আছেন কি?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: না।

Maulana MD. ABDUL AZIZ: অবগত না থাক্‌লে আমি জানিয়ে দিচ্ছি।

Title classes in Sarshina Islamia Senior Madrassa.

*45. **Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether Sarshina Islamia Senior Madrassa in the district of Bakarganj made repeated prayers for permission for starting title classes?

(*b*) If so, has the prayer been accepted?

(*c*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of granting recognition for Title Course to the Sarshina Islamia Senior Madrassa?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) The madrassa has asked for the permission on two occasions—once in 1934-35 and again in 1938-39.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The existing rules do not permit opening of Title Classes in private madrassas.

(*d*) In connection with the Madrassa Education Committee Report the whole question is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the Government will take to consider the representation for permission which was made once in 1934 and again in 1938-39?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: According to the importance of the question, time is taken in a matter like this. Some years before, Government contemplated setting up an enquiry committee for madrassa examination. The Madrassa Education Committee has submitted its report and that report is now being examined.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of considering this question alone apart from all other questions involved in the Madrassa Committee Report? The sooner it is done, the better.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: If that is possible, that might be done.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister state whether he considers the desirability of extending the title course to *mufassil madrassas?*

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That question has already been answered. The existing rules do not permit it.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of modifying or relaxing the rules, so that the rural madrassas can get the benefit?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I take note of the honourable member's suggestion.

Stipends to Scheduled Caste students in Burdwan Division.

*46. **Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of applications received from the Scheduled Caste students of Burdwan district by the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Burdwan, this year for stipends from the reserved fund;

(*b*) the number of those who have received such stipends;

(*c*) what steps have the Government taken for the spread of education amongst the boys of the Scheduled Castes in the said district; and

(*d*) whether the Special Officer for Scheduled Caste Education has made any special arrangement for the Scheduled Caste boys in the Burdwan Division?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) About 80.

(*b*) The number of stipend-holders cannot be given at this stage as the stipend applications are still under scrutiny.

(*c*) Three junior second grade scholarships are attached.

(*d*) To the Burdwan Raj College for the Scheduled Caste students of the district.

Scheduled Caste pupils in high schools in the Burdwan district will also get their share of stipend money amounting to Rs.6,288 placed at the disposal of the Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Division.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the answer that he has given is not incongruous?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no question.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: The question (*c*) is "what steps have the Government taken for the spread of education amongst the boys of the Scheduled Castes in the said district", and the answer is "three junior second grade scholarships are attached". Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state to which, what and whom these scholarships are attached?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: What is meant is that steps have been taken for the spread of education by the award of stipends.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: With reference to question (*d*), viz., whether the Special Officer for Scheduled Caste Education has made any special arrangement for the Scheduled Caste boys in the Burdwan Division, the answer being for the Burdwan district, may I ask what the Hon'ble Minister has done so far as other districts are concerned?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I propose to give a fuller answer on some future occasion. I am not prepared to answer this question just now.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is prepared to make a fuller statement at a later stage?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I have already said that.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us when these applications for stipends were received?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It is impossible for me to give the date off-hand without referring to the record.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is really the amount of stipends?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: For that also I want notice.

Registration of sale-deeds of jote lands in certain area in Mymensingh.

*47. **Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (Registration) Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing, year by year, since 1937 up to October, 1941, the number of sale-deeds of *jote* lands presented to the Sub-Registrars of—

(1) Bhairab,

(2) Bajitpur, and

(3) Austagram

stations of Mymensingh for Registration?

(*b*) If the number of the sale-deeds is on the increase, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangement, if any, do the Government contemplate taking for giving loan to the cultivators for saving their lands from sale?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing from 1937 up to October, 1941, the number of short-term crop loan banks established by the Government in—

(1) Bhairab,

(2) Kuliarchar,

(3) Bajitpur,

(4) Austagram, and

(5) Tukhli

police-stations respectively?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) A statement is laid on the Table on the assumption that by *jote* lands the occupancy holdings of *raiyats* are meant.

(*b*) The low figures of 1937 were due to the stoppage of sales of holdings pending the passing of the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act abolishing *salami* and transferring the right of pre-emption from landlords to co-sharer tenants and the subsequent rise in 1938 and 1939 was due to the facilities given by the amended Act. There has been an appreciable decrease in 1940 and 1941.

(*c*) Government distribute agricultural loans to cultivators in times of distress for agricultural purposes and not for the purpose of saving their lands from sale.

(*d*) A statement is laid on the Table.

Statements referred to in (a) and (d) of starred question No. 47.

STATEMENT I.

	Bhairab.	Bajitpur.	Austagram.
1937	721	733	259
1938	1,265	1,344	600
1939	2,169	2,236	1,156
1940	1,817	1,859	1,090
1941 (up to October) ..	1,379	1,918	1,159

STATEMENT II.

1.	Bhairab	85
2.	Kuliarchar	62
3.	Bajitpur	7
4.	Austagram	Nil
5.	Nikli	1
	Total ..	155

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government think that the drying up of rural credit is one of the causes of the increase of sale-deeds?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Might be.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: It has been stated in answer (*b*) that there has been an appreciable decrease in 1940 and 1941. In the statement the figures show that in 1940 in Austagram thana the number of sale-deeds was 1,090 whereas in 1941 up to October the number of sale-deeds had gone up to 1,159. Does he mean from this figure that there was a decrease?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I think the figures speak for themselves.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take for the cultivators to save their lands from sale?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The honourable member might refer this matter to the Revenue Minister, who is to speak about that.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Are we to understand that the Hon'ble Minister has got no answer to this question?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The Education Department has no answer to it.

Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM: Will the Ministry kindly consider the desirability of bringing some measure on the lines of the Punjab?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I would rather prefer that some honourable member of this House might take up this matter.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Hospitals and dispensaries maintained by District and Union Boards in Bengal.

34. Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the present number of—

(1) Hospitals,

(2) Allopathic charitable dispensaries,

(3) Unani charitable dispensaries,

(4) Ayurvedic charitable dispensaries, and

(5) Homeopathic charitable dispensaries

maintained by the—

(1) District Boards, and

(2) Union Boards

in the different districts of the Province?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): A statement is laid on the Library Table.

Visit of printing presses by Inspectors and Chief Inspector of Factories.

35. Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state, showing for the period from September, 1940, to October, 1941,—

(*i*) the number of printing presses visited by the—

(1) Inspectors of Factories, and

(2) Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal;

(*ii*) the date, time and names of the presses that were visited; and

(*iii*) the number of press proprietors and managers prosecuted by—

(1) Inspectors, and

(2) Chief Inspector of Factories

for violation of the payment of Wages and Indian Factories Act?

(*b*) If no prosecution was made, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) (*i*) (1) 67 and (2) nil.

(*ii*) A statement showing the names of the printing presses and the dates of their inspection is laid on the Library Table. Record of time of inspection is not kept.

(*iii*) Nil.

(*b*) In all cases reasonable compliance with the law was obtained by co-operation and warning.

Indian Research Fund Association.

36. Khan Bahadur Maulvi MD. SOLAIMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether the Bengal Government have any control over the Indian Research Fund Association in the School of Tropical Medicine?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: This Government has no control over the Indian Research Fund Association in the School of Tropical Medicine.

Muslim Assistant Research Workers and Assistant Professors in the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta.

37. **Khan Bahadur Maulvi MD. SOLAIMAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there has been any improvement in the number of Muslim Assistant Research Workers and Assistant Professors in the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, since the answer given to starred question No. 107 in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 27th August, 1935;

(*b*) the number of—

(1) temporary, and

(2) permanent

vacancies that were advertised and filled up since that time;

(*c*) the number of such posts that were filled up by—

(1) Muslims, and

(2) Hindus; and

(*d*) the number of Muslim candidates that were recommended by the Selection Committees for any of those vacancies?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) Yes.

	Government.	Endowment Fund.	Indian Research Fund Association.
(*b*) (1)	Nil.	Nil.	2
(2)	Nil.	5	Nil.
(*c*) (1)	Nil.	1	2
(2)	Nil.	4	Nil.

(*d*) For the above seven posts that were advertised, 17 Muslim candidates were interviewed for different posts and only one Muslim candidate was recommended and selected by the Selection Committee. Two posts under Indian Research Fund Association were filled in temporarily by two of the interviewed candidates, but the *Enquiries* being abolished, the services of the incumbents were dispensed with, with effect from (1) April, 1940, and (2) April, 1941.

Filling up of the post of Professor of Medicine in Calcutta Medical College.

38. Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether the post of the Professor of Medicine in the Medical College, Calcutta, has been permanently filled up?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the appointment was made in consultation with the Public Service Commission;

(*ii*) whether the post was advertised before the appointment; and

(*iii*) whether the question of Communal Ratio was considered before the appointment?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the qualification of the candidate who has been appointed to the said post; and

(*ii*) whether any Muslim candidate with better qualification is available in the Medical College?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the present number of—

(1) Muslim, and

(2) Hindu

Professors in the Medical College?

(*f*) If the number of Muslim Professors is not adequate, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether cases of qualified Muslim candidates were considered before filling up the post of Professor of Medicine?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The honourable member is referred to the reply given on the 15th September, 1941, to unstarred question No. 96.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Allowance to the families of security prisoners.

***24. Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA CANGULI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the security prisoners, namely—

(1) Sreejut Birendra Chandra Chatterji,
(2) Sreejut Chiranjib Misra,
(3) Sreejut Jamini Mohan Pal,
(4) Sreejut Tarani Bhusan Shome,
(5) Sreejut Makhan Lal Dutt,
(6) Sreejut Nani Sen Gupta,
(7) Sreejut Birendra Nath Bose,
(8) Sreejut Charu Chandra Roy,
(9) Sreejut Tarakeswar Bhattacharji,
(10) Sreejut Shyama Charan Biswas,
(11) Sreejut Nalini Mohan Das Gupta, and
(12) Dr. Sarat Kumar Sen Gupta

have been granted any allowance for the maintenance of their families?

(*ii*) whether any enquiry was made from their families about their condition?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the results of such enquiries?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of granting any allowance to their families?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME and PUBLICITY DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): In respect of No. (1) I refer the honourable member to the question already answered previously. Allowances have been granted to the dependants of Nos. (2), (4), (6) and (11). In respect of the others—

(*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) It transpired that the dependants were not eligible for allowance under the conditions which my predecessors have stated in this House.

(*c*) I will have the point re-examined.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*c*) will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister who is also the Home Minister consider the desirability of giving an assurance to this House that the point will be examined and necessary action taken before the session is over?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The question of granting allowance is governed by certain rules which are at the present moment prevalent. As I have stated, we are reconsidering the whole question and also the question of changing the rules. I can give this assurance that every possible effort will be made to meet the wishes of this House in respect of this matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Home Minister be pleased to state if the rules referred to have ever been published or have ever been made available to the members of the Legislature?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am afraid, not.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which particular conditions are referred to in his answer (*b*), conditions which his predecessors are reported to have stated in this House?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is not possible for me to state in answer to this question what the rules exactly are because I am afraid I am not permitted to disclose them to this House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. It has been mentioned in answer to the question that the dependents are not eligible for allowance under the conditions which his predecessors have stated in this House. Evidently there is nothing to prevent the Hon'ble Minister from disclosing certain things which have already been stated by his predecessors and not predecessor. I do not know how many predecessors he had in respect of this portfolio. I want to know which particular rules or conditions referred to are under contemplation of being revised because I do not remember as a member, as a diligent member, having heard any set of rules or conditions stated before the House regarding the eligibility or otherwise of security prisoners for allowances.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has very clearly stated that he is not in a position to state the rules under which it is done.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: When I say "my predecessors" I may state that my predecessors extend to remote antiquity, not merely to the ex-Ministers in this House but also members of Government who were members of the former House also. It is possible that answers were given in the old Council, of which my friend was not a member. What I mean is that these rules will be found in the answers to questions which have been put from time to time. But it is not permissible to me to state the rules as they stand at present.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the course of the re-examination that is proposed under answer (c) he will be pleased to enquire into the entire question of revision of the rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, Sir.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House whether the Government is ready to lay before the House the petition made by the family members of these prisoners, the result of the enquiries and the status of persons who enquired into the matter and the order of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am afraid the answer is in the negative.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: I would like to know from the Hon'ble Home Minister whether these rules have been framed under the Defence of India Act or in connection with the Defence of India Act.

Th Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is not entirely under the Defence of India Act that they have been framed, but they have been framed from time to time.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: In view of the fact that the security prisoners are all kept under the Defence of India Act and the rules made thereunder, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how can the other rules apply?

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Why is the ex-Home Minister prompting Mr.Ispahani to put the questions instead of putting the questions himself?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: There is no harm in that.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: I ask for a reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is impossible for me to speak about matters about which I do not know in detail. I am speaking from my brief and I cannot go outside it. If the hon'ble member wants a full answer to this question I will take it as a notice and answer it later on.

Maintenance allowance to the family of security prisoner Babu Profulla Kumar Chatterji.

*25. **Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that the wife and two children of Babu Profulla Kumar Chatterji, a security prisoner arrested at Madaripur in the district of Faridpur, have been passing through acute economic distress;

(*ii*) that the business left by the said Profulla Babu has been in the process of being wound up by his creditors;

(*iii*) that his wife and children are not getting any monetary help from that business; and

(*iv*) that his brother is not maintaining his wife and children?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of granting a maintenance allowance to his family?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) No.

(*b*) I have instituted a fresh enquiry and it has been reported that the prisoner's family is being maintained by his two brothers and as such no maintenance allowance is considered necessary.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any enquiry has been made about the income and the dependants of the two brothers referred to?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I find that elaborate enquiries have been made.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I put a specific question. It has been mentioned, Sir, that the prisoner's family is being maintained by his two brothers. It is not expected that the family would die of starvation. I want to know whether the income of the two brothers is sufficient for the maintenance of the family.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, Sir. Elaborate enquiries were made. The wife and the two children of the security prisoner, Babu Prafulla Kumar Chatterjee of Madaripur are at present living in a joint mess with his brothers, Satish Chatterjee and his cousin, Ranajit Chatterjee. Satish Chatterjee is a practising muktear at Madaripur town and earns about Rs. 50 a month. He is married and has two minor children. Ranajit Chatterjee is a sub-overseer of the Madaripur Municipality and his salary is Rs. 42 per mensem. He also gets Rs. 5 a month as cycle allowance. He is unmarried. The wife and the children of the security prisoner are now maintained by Satish Chatterjee and Ranajit Chatterjee with a portion of their income and the income from the grocery owned by the security prisoner. This is now managed by a shop assistant under the supervision of Ranajit Chatterjee. The business of Prafulla Kumar Chatterjee is not in the process of being wound up by creditors. It is in a running condition. The shop assistant who was working in this shop for the last 5 years is now carrying on the business under the supervision of Ranajit Chatterjee. According to the version of the shop assistant and Ranajit Chatterjee the daily sales in this shop amount to Rs. 12 to Rs. 15. This yields a profit of about Rs. 20 a month. Besides his wife and children Satish Chatterjee has his mother and one unmarried sister to maintain. Ranajit sends a portion of his income to his home for the maintenance of his brother's family. Prafulla Kumar Chatterjee, the security prisoner, is the owner of ⅓rd share of *taluk* with an annual income of Rs. 300. He jointly owns the *taluk* with his brother and cousin. He owes a debt of nearly Rs. 800 the major portion of which was invested in connection with a launch business which is a limited concern organised by some of the ex-detenus of Madaripur belonging to the "Jugantar" Party two years ago. It has not yet declared any dividend. This limited company plies two motor launches, one between Madaripur and Faridpur during the rainy season and the other between Madaripur and Bhanga throughout the whole year. It is not a fact that the wife and the children of the security prisoner are passing through acute economic distress. As such, no family allowance is recommended. The security prisoner had substantially improved the existing financial condition of the family. So, it will be seen that elaborate enquiries were made.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has drawn his conclusion that the family of the security prisoner, Babu Prafulla Kumar Chatterji, is not passing through acute economic distress from the premises that the total income of Rs. 50 plus Rs. 42 plus Rs. 5 allowance plus the losing business of a ship and another losing business of a motor launch, that is, a total income of about Rs. 97, is sufficient to maintain three families consisting of 17 members, namely, the mother, an unmarried sister, four

members of Ranjit's family, Prafulla's wife and two children, Santosh's wife and three children and evidently one or two maid-servants and some others. Is it therefore the conclusion of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that the family is not passing through acute economic distress?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The information given is the information of the officer who submitted the report, and he says that the family is not passing through acute economic distress. Certainly they are not in an affluent state, and I shall certainly make an enquiry into the matter.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the case of the dependents of this security prisoner will be considered along with the cases of other security prisoners?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have already said so.

Arrest and release of Babu Ananga Mohan Das.

***26. Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHOWMIK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether Babu Ananga Mohan Das, President of the Union Board, Mayna, was arrested in connection with *satyagraha* movement at Tamluk;

(*ii*) whether he was tried by the Additional District Magistrate, Midnapore, and was convicted for four months' rigorous imprisonment and placed in division III unlike other *satyagrahi* prisoners who were placed in division II?

(*iii*) whether he was transferred to Hooghly Jail;

(*iv*) whether the date of his release was stated in his jail card to be the 3rd July, 1941; and

(*v*) whether he was released on the 29th July, 1941?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*v*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) He was tried and convicted by the Subdivisional Officer, Midnapore Sadar, and sentenced on the 30th January, 1941, to detention till the rising of the court and a fine of Rs.200 or in default rigorous imprisonment for 6 months. He was classed in division III.

(*iii*) and (*v*) Yes.

(*iv*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors in the Intelligence Branch of the Police Department.

*27. **Mr. M. MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of (1) Sub-Inspectors and (2) Inspectors at present working in the Intelligence (Investigation) Branch of the Police Department;

(*b*) how many of them are (1) Muslims and (2) non-Muslims;

(*c*) the number of vacancies that occurred there; and

(*d*) the number of vacancies that were filled up by (1) Muslims and (2) non-Muslims since the Bengal Services (Communal Ratio) Rules came into operation?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (1) 29 and (2) 20.

(*b*) Government considers that it is not in the public interest to divulge the communal composition of the Branch.

(*c*) Seven Sub-Inspectors' posts fell vacant.

(*d*) Answer to (*b*) may be seen.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what public interest is likely to be affected if merely the number of respective Muslims and Hindus are given in reply to question (*b*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know, but it will certainly give rise to many supplementary questions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I rise on a point of order, Sir? I submit that the House is entitled to get answers to questions of this character. There is hardly any public interest in the opinion of this House at least likely to be affected by giving the number. And I submit, Sir, you give your ruling as to whether we are entitled to have a definite answer to this question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you will see that the number is given in answer to a part of the question. What the

Hon'ble Chief Minister says is that he cannot give out the communal ratio. My opinion is this: when the communal ratio is fixed, members certainly have a right to know the ratio. I would request the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to ascertain the fact later on and give it out to the House. In that case I hold the question be held over.

(Accordingly question No. 27 was held over.)

Restriction of racing and control of Turf Club.

*28. **Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that in this Province there is a widespread feeling that racing should be restricted and the activities of the Turf Club controlled as racing definitely increases crime?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking necessary steps for—

(*i*) reducing the number of race meetings;

(*ii*) abolishing double and treble totalisators; and

(*iii*) enforcing the acceptance of Government nomination to the Committee of Management of the Turf Club?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) and (*b*) The matter is being enquired into.

Short Notice questions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I have tabled two short-notice questions on two very important matters relating to the Civil Defence arrangements and A. R. P. arrangements. These were handed over to your office on Monday last. I submit that in this emergent situation these questions are very urgent, and may I crave your indulgence to see that the questions are answered by the Hon'ble Minister concerned as early as possible?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: These questions have been sent to the administrative departments concerned, and I am sure you will get your answers in due time.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

[The general discussion of the Budget was then resumed.]

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, strange have been the ways of the present Government of Bengal since its

formation in December last and it is no wonder that they would present a strange budget, the only one of its kind since the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy in our country. In the name of nation-saving Budget I find that a conspiracy has actually been set on foot to give everything to Calcutta and Chakhar at the cost of the rest of the province. The construction of a new Muslim Hall attached to the Dacca University has been postponed *sine die* and Dr. Mookerjee was suspected of so doing from all quarters. All activities calculated to ameliorate the condition of the deaf and dumb millions including the expansion of Muslim and Scheduled Castes' education have received a like treatment at the hands of the all-powerful man of the Calcutta University fame, and we know not what will be the next. From this it is evident what will be the fate of the Secondary Education Bill which was before the Assembly last session after it had emerged out of the Select Committee. If you turn to the pages of the Red Book you will find that all Nation-building departments have been forgotten which the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has himself admitted. I shall not go into the details of the Budget, but this much I say that everything possible has been done to give everything to Calcutta and its suburbs. The Caste Hindus, especially those of Calcutta, have formed their *Raj* and with the eye-wash of an emergent or Nation-saving Budget have found a great opportunity of squeezing as much money as they could lay their hands upon for the benefit of the city of Calcutta and its residents. In the Supplementary Budget of the current year alone I find that out of a total grant of Rs. 70,73,000 allotted under the head "Extraordinary Charges" as much as Rs. 70,23,000 have been provided for the city of Calcutta and its suburbs, and only Rs. 50,000 for the vulnerable areas in the mofussil including Chittagong, Dacca and Mymensingh. There may be occasional bombing in Calcutta but as far as we have seen from experience the bombings were made in Rangoon in the north of the city for destroying war efforts or rather manufacturing departments of war effort. Chittagong and other places on the eastern border are adjacent to Burma and more money ought to have been allotted for these places but the honourable gentlemen from Calcutta would not care for anything but their own hearth and home; he would not care for the *Bangals* of Chittagong and Dacca. Real power now lies in the hands of two or three men of Calcutta who have stakes in Calcutta and the industrial area nearabout and their persons and property must be protected and their men must also be provided with employment in these days of acute distress when *chakri* is very dear and the Budget has been framed accordingly. Let it be at the cost of the border people or let it be at the cost of the mofussal people, it does not matter to them. Calcutta must have its share.

Then there is the Corporation of Calcutta. That must be placated and 7½ lakhs of rupees must be allotted as if the mofussal towns have

no need whatever for tube-wells, for fire brigades, etc. Let Calcutta have its way and Calcutta will have it because the Hon'ble Minister has big stakes in Calcutta.

A. R. P. organisations have been started in all district and subdivisional towns and some of them are indeed vulnerable if the Japanese menace is at all to be seriously considered. No one can deny that but who cares for mofussal people? Let them die in wilderness, but their representatives, if there are any, would know how to fight specially against the people now dominating the Cabinet. Let the mofussal people die; it does not matter to them. Probably they think that the more these people die the more lands will be available for distributing among the invaders. This they expect would save the wealth and property of those who are leading us to this state of utter ruin. Let it be to the detriment of the whole province of Bengal, it does not matter to them; Calcutta must be saved.

Leaving aside the Supplementary Budget, in the Budget I find that out of an allotment of 1 crore, 25 lakhs and 29 thousand the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has been graciously pleased to allot a sum of only 2 lakhs for mofussal. Is this equity? Is this justice? I say emphatically "No". But we are entirely helpless because they are at the present moment our masters and their rule and their orders must be obeyed.

Then, Sir, I come to another point. A sum of 1 lakh and 20 thousand has been allotted under the head "Communal harmony" and "Publicity". Now, how the money is to be spent is no more a matter of conjecture. This, I am sure, will be directed to break the Muslim solidarity and against the Pakisthan movement. But I warn the Government that this will be a dangerous move, and the sooner they wash their hands off it the better. The Serajganj conference has clearly demonstrated that the Muslims will not be satisfied with anything short of Pakisthan and Akhanda Hindusthan is only a dream of a few idealists and has no place in the body-politics of India.

Now, Sir, I would like to answer to one gentleman who sits to my right who said something yesterday and that is Mr. Jalan. Although he belongs to the official block of the Congress he not only supported the Hon'ble Finance Minister's war effort Budget but went so far as to accuse Quaide Azam Mr. Jinnah for his calling the Congress, a Hindu organisation. To this I would only quote what Mr. Rajagopalachariar said only the other day at Thambaram in his recent speech and reproduced in the "Hindu" of 22nd January, 1942. I will quote his words. He said—

"There has been no settlement between the Government and the people and the principal political organisations over whom such illustrious persons as Mahatma Gandhi and Quaide Azam Jinnah preside.

These were no small individuals, one had become almost as famous as the other and both of them were tremendously popular in the country. Each had a blind following; let it be so but it was a true following.

Here were then two powerful popular organisations of Hindus and Muslims, both at war with the Government and therefore with all the operations of the Government. These were facts."

Here Mr. Rajagopalachariar clearly admits that the Congress is a Hindu organisation and it does not befit Mr. Jalan to accuse Mr. Jinnah for speaking the truth. Mr. Jinnah spoke the truth long before Rajaji admitted it and now that he has admitted the fact Mr. Jinnah can no longer be accused by a person like Mr. Jalan or by persons of his way of thinking in the way he has done. I am only referring to this because Mr. Jalan raised this point in the debate yesterday.

Now, Sir, it is to be seen if the Hon'ble the Finance Minister did the right thing in saddling us with such a huge cost of Defence. It is admitted on all hands that the present Japanese menace has been brought about by the commissions and omissions and by the negligence of the Imperial Government. The British Government instead of taking adequate steps for the defence of Malaya and other existing possessions followed their traditional policy of expanding their empire at the expense of the weaker nations. We have it from the Commander of Malaya himself that arms and ammunitions were actually removed from Malaya and sent to Russia and the Middle East for this purpose. No one can deny that anything that is done is not being done at the bid of the imperial Government. This has resulted in a situation in which the Hon'ble Finance Minister has been obliged to put aside a large amount of money for war purposes.

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to speak for one minute more.)

Sir, the Ministry has not the mania to claim that the people are behind them. They know that they have got no hold over the people and they are now trying to please their British masters. But I can assure them, that this won't do in all time to come. They shall have to face the people sooner or later.

I had many things more to say, but since I have no time I must obey the order of the Chair and resume my seat.

Mr. P. BANERJI: My Deputy Speaker, Sir, my young friend, Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, in introducing the Budget in his speech said that the Budget should be described as one of nation-saving and not of nation-building. He is aware that years ago I used to criticise the Budget and despise it year after year. There is nothing new in this Budget; it is the old wine in a new bottle with a new name. Sir, I do maintain that it is the same thing over again even though

this time it has come from the hands of Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee. There is only one change in the label from "nation-building" to "nation-saving". I would rather say that "Nation-saving" is not the proper word, and it has been used only because large sums of money have been diverted to other than Nation-building activities.

Now, Sir, before I go into details, I may say that it was very interesting and amusing to note that the honourable members who were only yesterday staunch supporters of the Chief Minister are vociferous to-day in their condemnation of the same Chief Minister. Experience tells us and particularly those of our friends who are young that sufficient time must be allowed to gain experience. So, I say, Sir, we cannot blame the Chief Minister. After mature experience the Chief Minister has changed his supporters, though it would have been better if he had been made a Minister without portfolio. He could have been made the Propaganda Minister.

Now, Sir, Mr. Hamid has just referred to certain remarks that fell from the mouth of Mr. Jalan. You are aware, Sir, that the Marwaris are generous and when they speak they speak with generosity. When, however, Mr. Jalan described this Government as a national Government he was overgenerous, because to us it is not a national Government. It is only when the Congress takes up the responsibility of Government that it can be called a national Government. It is then and then only that you can call it a truly national Government. As regards Mr. Jalan's remark about Mr. Jinnah Mr. Hamid was not correct in thinking that Mr. Jalan was condemning Mr. Jinnah personally. We Congressmen represent the whole of India and not this or that community. Mr. Hamid has referred to the statement of Mr. Rajagopalachariar but what about the other statements—the statements that have been made by Mahatma Gandhi, the statements that have been made by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the statements that have been made by many other leaders? The statement that has just been referred to has been contradicted by Mr. Rajagopalachariar himself. If after all this Mr. Hamid tells us on the authority of Mr. Rajagopalachariar that the Congress is a Hindu organisation I do not know what to say. The Congress organisation is there, but nowhere has anybody recognised this organisation as an organisation voicing the public opinion of a particular community. The Congress is for all people, both Hindus and Muhammadans. (Cries of "question" from the Opposition benches.) We are speaking on behalf of the Congress and we have been speaking like that long before Mr. Ispahani was born. We were members of the All-India Congress Committee along with Mr. Jinnah, Mohammed Ali and other men. These men are well known to us and we know what sort of a man Mr. Jinnah is. We yield to none in our respect to the leaders of different opinions.

Now, Sir, I come to the Budget. As I have already said, Sir, there is nothing new in the Budget, particularly because it is a deficit Budget. The only thing is that the Hon'ble Finance Minister says that we cannot do otherwise, because his duty now is to save us and to save the nation. And in order to save the nation we must spend any amount that may be necessary. Let us now scrutinize one particular item of the Budget. The Hon'ble Finance Minister says that in the matter of Civil Defence money has been spent to the tune of some crores but the redeeming feature is that he has given us an assurance that we are going to get a major portion of this money from the Central Exchequer. As regards this, I may point out, and indeed Mr. Dhirendra Nath Dutta has already pointed it out yesterday, that it is the duty and the responsibility of the Central Government to defend the country and therefore whatever money is necessary for that purpose must be provided by them. As I have very little time at my disposal, I want to restrict myself only to one item and that is the A. R. P. arrangement. We must profit by the experience of other places. For that purpose, let us take the case of Burma where recently air-raids took place. We are all aware that the first air-raid took place on December 23rd and from 23rd December right up to the 2nd of January there was incessant bombing of Rangoon. Much property and many lives were destroyed as a result of the bombing on the 23rd December 1941. We all know that arrangements were made in Rangoon against air-raids. I have thoroughly studied the A. R. P. arrangements that have been made in Calcutta and its neighbourhood. I may say, Sir, that these arrangements are nothing compared to those made in Rangoon. Money, of course, is being spent. High officials have been appointed and even pensioners have been appointed on very high salaries. Why should they not employ unemployed youngmen as wardens on a small salary? At present, 50 per cent. of them are unpaid and they are forced to work. For instance the duty of the Government officials and semi-officials, particularly European officers, has been fixed from 10 o'clock in the night to 6 o'clock in the morning because they have to work during the day in the office whereas these volunteers are compelled to go there and work without any remuneration, without any arrangement for conveyance and without any arrangement for anything. There is my friend the Hon'ble Mr. S. K. Basu who will, I hope, take note of this.

Now as the blue light is on, I must finish quickly. Sir, I was discussing the question of Rangoon. In spite of covered trenches and in spite of various arrangements for street fire parties, etc., there was much destruction of life and property. After the air-raid had taken place on December 23rd there was not a soul in Rangoon to do any work. Dead bodies were lying in the streets of Rangoon and in the wharfs. The dead bodies were removed not by the members of the A. R. P. because they had all fled away, and for three days there was

nobody because people were going away by the Prome Road. Mr. Hutchings was there and he asked the people to go back to Rangoon. He did not allow them to come away. The result was that many Bengali lives were lost. This is the result of Mr. Hutchings's work.

Coming to the arrangements for evacuation, I understand that permits were issued but no passage was booked. There was the British India Steam Navigation Company. They booked passages for Europeans alone. There was the Scindia Steam Navigation Company but they gave facilities only to Guzeratis and Bhatias. The arrangement was that the 70 per cent. of the accommodation would be reserved for women and children and 30 per cent. for male members. But to the surprise of many—this is a very important matter—it was actually found that the male members formed 70 per cent. of the passengers and the women and children only formed 30 per cent. That was the arrangement made for evacuation from Rangoon after the raid.

As my time is almost over, I must ask the Minister in charge to profit by the experience of Rangoon. It is not within the power of the Government to help the people in any way. It is time to warn people and arrange for the evacuation. It is no good spending money in the way proposed and trying to help people after the trouble has started. It is but fair to tell people who cannot be defended to go away. After evacuation if any relief or succour is to be given, it should be given to them outside Calcutta. I think that the order for evacuation should be given immediately in Calcutta if you really want to save the nation; otherwise there will be a great disaster in Calcutta, as it happened in Rangoon. Therefore, I feel that this huge expenditure is not necessary. In my view, it is only being wasted. Already 75 lakhs is spent for nothing.

Is it necessary for the preservation of the lives of our people that there should be lighting restrictions at night? You know, Sir, that the enemy came at 10-10 a.m. at Rangoon in broad daylight in the morning and caused a heavy loss of life and damage to property there. What had the Government of Burma done beforehand? What arrangement was there?

(At this time the red light was shown.)

In spite of the lighting restrictions in Rangoon the parachutists alighted, bombs were thrown there and people were machine-gunned in broad daylight. Therefore this lighting restriction is unnecessary and immediate steps should be taken for evacuation.

Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have listened with very great interest and care to the Budget speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in presenting the Budget for the

ensuing year. I congratulate him for the frankness of his speech. He does not try to hide the gloomy prospect of the country. At a time when practically the whole of the world is in the midst of war and at a time when the enemy is practically knocking at our doors and when we are threatened with very disastrous consequences, he has very frankly described his Budget as a war Budget—the Budget which is meant more for the nation-saving department than a Budget for the nation-building works. It is true that in this critical time much of the financial resources of the province is being spent in nation-saving works—for works to safeguard and protect our hearths and homes leaving hardly much balance for the nation-building works. Moreover it is equally true that the new Finance Minister could hardly get sufficient time at his disposal to shape the Budget in his own way on the face of the serious handicaps in different ways and when all domestic and local issues are overshadowed by the all-important issues of the Great War. Sir, I feel that it is not the time to make a detailed analysis of the Budget figures under different heads, for it is the time when all demands under the various heads may have to be subordinated to the more urgent and serious consideration of public safety. In this Budget a huge sum of Rs. 1,25,00,000 has been provided for Civil Defence measures. I congratulate the Finance Minister for providing a lakh of rupees for establishing communal harmony. I hope under the proper lead and guidance of the present Ministry true communal harmony will be established throughout the length and breadth of the province when the people will realise that the great national interest stands supreme to all other considerations—communal or social. I hope and pray that in no distant future it will be the good fortune of Bengal to stand before the whole world as one nation—irrespective of colour, race or creed. I also hope that the Hon'ble Finance Minister will always realise the various needs and requirements of the people and he will avail of the earliest opportunity to do his best to meet those requirements.

Unfortunate as we are the whole nation is still unarmed and as yet we are in entirely hopeless and absolutely helpless position not only to resist the invaders but also to defend our democracy and freedom which is the avowed object of us all. The Hon'ble Minister has said that it is a war "which must be won if we are to save our heritage". But unfortunately we have neither the resources nor the necessary requirements to gain this end. It is high time that Government should realise the serious state of affairs and will lose no time to raise at once a great Bengal Regiment fully trained and properly armed. We are really in a very helpless and desparate state and so a desparate remedy has got to be adopted without any the least delay.

Sir, I do not propose to enter into a detailed discussion of the different Budget heads but I confine my observations to a few important facts which primarily relate to those whom I have the honour to

represent in this House. It is very unfortunate that since the inauguration of the so-called Provincial Autonomy in this province the people of West Bengal have received a rather step-motherly treatment from the Ministry. These West Bengal districts were once very flourishing not only in its agricultural resources but also in trade and commerce. But with the silting up of its rivers and water-channels it has completely undergone a thorough degeneration in every way with the result that in districts like Burdwan and Hooghly there has been an alarming shrinkage of about 40 per cent. of its agricultural lands during the last 50 years. In spite of the fact that these districts contribute the largest amount of Government revenue and in spite of the fact that in these districts the incidence of taxation per head of population is more than 4½ annas as against two annas or even less payable per head of population in East Bengal districts, no adequate steps have ever been taken to ameliorate their conditions. The people of these districts by their continued sufferings from malaria and other preventible diseases have been so much enfeebled that they have become physically unfit even to carry on their agricultural work themselves. The result has been as serious and disastrous as it could possibly be. Now the people are more dead than alive. I was really much mortified to find the more stereotyped answer of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Irrigation Department to my starred question No. 22 on the 18th instant on the floor of this House when he stated that the cause of the floods in the different districts of the Burdwan Division "was due to abnormal and excessive rainfall", and in answer to my question as to what steps the Government propose to take to prevent the recurrence of such devastating floods in the future, he said that the question "does not arise". The sooner such bureaucratic and white-washing efforts are stopped the better it is for the country.

Speaking about the landholders whom I have the honour to represent in this House and who have now been placed in a very precarious condition I would only remind the House that the landholders played a very important part in establishing the present economic, social and political conditions of the country. Zamindars contributed very liberally not only for the education, medical and sanitary improvements of the country but they have also played their part very successfully in discharging their duties and obligations to the country at large for the nation-building as well as for the nation-saving purposes. Now the landlords have come to such a pass that it is daily getting more and more difficult for them to save their very existence. In spite of the fact that the agricultural prospects in some of the districts are rather bright this year yet the *raiyats* who have become extremely panic-stricken owing to the present war situation, have practically stopped paying the rent. Some of the recent tenancy legislations have made it still more difficult for the landlords to realise their rents. In this connection I would like to present the Hon'ble

Minister of Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness with only one instance of how the Debt Settlement Boards are being utilised by some of the mischievous debtors in avoiding payment. Suit No. 441 of 1938 was filed before the First Munsif of Serampore on the 7th September, 1938. The debtor took no notice of it and it was decreed *ex-parte* on the 18th January, 1939, for Rs. 300 with costs. The execution case for the recovery of this amount Suit No. 254 of 1939 was filed on the 9th October, 1939, and the sale date was fixed on the 11th March, 1940, and then the debtor ran to Haripal Debt Settlement Board——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I rise on a point of order, Sir? I find that the member is reading out notes from his manuscript regarding certain land revenue matters of a particular debt settlement board in a particular locality which ought not to be brought in in connection with a general discussion of the Budget. It would be impossible for other members to follow up and take part in the debate if manuscript speeches containing details are delivered for such a long time. I submit, Sir, either you restrict the time-limit in such a way as to accommodate other members who want to speak or permit us to go on till 12 o'clock.

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Mr. David Hendry): The time-limit will be indicated by red light when the member reaches his time-limit, and it is not yet in operation.

Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: And then the debtor ran to the Haripal Debt Settlement Board and the execution of the decree was stayed by the said Board by case No. 22-3 of 1940. For reasons best known to the mighty Chairman of the Debt Settlement Board and which may also be well-known to at least some of us here, the Chairman felt particular pity on the debtor and in spite of the repeated protests on the part of the creditor he granted repeated adjournments of the case on no less than 21 occasions with the result that the case was dragged on for more than a year till it was disposed of in July, 1941, to the effect that the debt then amounting to Rs. 377 will be payable by the debtor in 18 yearly instalments of Rs. 21 per year. Then an appeal was filed against this before the Appellate Officer, that is, the Subdivisional Officer, Serampore, on 4th August, 1941, and since then 10 adjournments have already been granted and the case is still pending before the mighty Subdivisional Officer. Thus the debtor is enjoying his holding rent-free for the last 7 years. Sir, if this be the state of affairs then it can be well realised how it is possible for the landlords to realise their rents and to pay in return the revenue to the Government. This is but one example and I can cite hundreds of such cases to show how things are happening in the countryside. I also appeal to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Communication and

Works to avail his earliest possible opportunity to put into operation and actual execution of the Burdwan-Hooghly-Howrah Flushing Scheme which has been unanimously approved by this Assembly on 3rd September, 1940. It is a matter of vital importance to the people and on this depends entirely the future life and prosperity of the people of this part of the country. Speaking on behalf of the landlords I may say that the zamindars are fully conscious of their present position, they are fully alive of their duties, clearly aware of their responsibilities and alert of their impending danger. But the zamindars are ready to rise equal to the occasion and to make any sacrifice if they are only convinced that thereby the true salvation of the country will be achieved. Let the popular Ministry also rise equal to the occasion to bring about an all-round improvement of the condition of the people to restore full and complete and everlasting communal harmony in the country and thereby enable the people also to rise equal to the occasion as a truly united one nation.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Mr. Chairman, permit me, Sir, to commence the discussion of the Budget with the remark that the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister represented him to be a professor of Politics in his class room rather than a Finance Minister dealing with matters relating to exchequer before a House of Legislature. Sir, he dealt more eloquently on the virtues of Defence than dealing efficiently with matters relating to Budget.

Sir, at the outset I would like to deal with the provision of a sum of Rs. 1 lakh for the establishment of communal harmony in this Province. I for myself will not object to such a provision if the *bona fides* of the Ministers and the Cabinet could not be questioned. The provision has been made by a Cabinet consisting of the Finance Minister who very recently in order to show the highest type of communalism disregarded and violated the ban of the legally-constituted Bihar Government to go to Bhagalpur to attend the Hindu Mahasabha. When such a person sings the homily of communal harmony and peace and order, I for myself and the members on this side of the House cannot believe in his *bona fides*. Not only that, Sir, Very recently we have found many things which go to question the *bona fides* of the Cabinet. The Cabinet commenced its regime with a policy of repression against the Muslim students and the Muslim Leaguers. On the 5th February when the peaceful Muslim citizens of Dacca assembled at the railway station to show their disapproval of the conduct of the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur, when he paid his visit there, by black flag demonstration, the peaceful Muslim citizens were assaulted by the hooligans and we on this side of the House believe that the provision of this sum has been made in order to appoint agents to provoke communal feelings and to suppress the legitimate opinion of the Muslim

community as a whole. The provision coming from the hand of one like the Hon'ble Finance Minister appears to be nothing more than the citing of scriptures by the devil!

Next, Sir, I submit that when I opened the pages of the Budget I was rudely shocked at the provision of a sum of Rs. 76,800 as the salaries of Parliamentary Secretaries. I was shocked not because the provision was made but because that shows the *mala fide* of the Cabinet as a whole. When the Whips were appointed it was declared that no additional pay would be given to them nor any allowance would be given. Now, Sir, if that is the fact, how this Government is going to allocate the sum of Rs. 76,800 as the salaries as against Rs. 20,000 of the previous year of the pays of the Parliamentary Secretaries? It would have been quite proper on the part of the Government to deal more fairly and squarely with the Houses of the Legislature. May I ask particularly the Hon'ble Finance Minister if it is the intention that after the Budget session will be over, the Government will allocate the pay of each and every one of the Whips as Parliamentary Secretary? Though I do not call it dishonesty because that is not a parliamentary term, I say that it shows the want of honesty on the part of the Cabinet.

Next, Sir, I will say something regarding the Publicity Department. Last year provision was made for Rs. 3,45,000 and this year we find that provision has been made for Rs 5,06,000. I do not deny the necessity for this provision, but the reason why I object is this. We have found the Hon'ble Chief Minister publishing statement after statement to answer the charges levelled against him by the Leaguers at the cost of the Government—Government paper and Government press——.

Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM: On a point of order, Sir. The Chair must have noticed that the honourable member has been indulging in tirades against a certain section of the House. Sir, if you would kindly look to the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, section 12 (*viii*), you will find that he—a lawyer of some eminence—has been flagrantly violating this rule which is more or less a sort of sheet-anchor——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I submit a point of order on this point?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sanyal, let him finish his point of order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I submit that he is expressing an oponion and delivering a speech?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Anwarul Azim, will you please repeat the point of order? It is not at all clear to the Chair.

Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM: My point is that he is making a personal charge against a member of this House—a member of the Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point of order is disallowed. The honourable member may now proceed with his speech.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: I would like to say that it would have been quite proper on the part of the Cabinet to say explicity that the charges for issuing statement after statement to meet the charges of betrayal and other things levelled against the leaders, who were the leaders of the Muslim League before and who are now occupying the Treasury Benches, would be included in the charges on behalf of the Government.

Now comes the question of A. R P. I have tried and tried to understand but I am afraid, Sir, that this money is being wasted. The other day I had a talk with a gentleman coming from Rangoon who had personal experience of bombing there. He has said that digging trenches here and there was of no avail. The only attempt that Government has made in this direction is nothing but digging trenches here and there without any *pucca* cover and erecting some baffle walls. But this is not sufficient. It would have been quite proper on the part of Government to ask the civil population who are not connected with Government or merchant offices to leave the city and it would have been quite proper on the part of Government to ask the merchants to contribute money for this purpose. Without doing so, Government is going to spend this huge amount for nothing, because the experiences everywhere outside India, say, at Singapore or at Rangoon, have proved that this sort of protection is of no avail.

Now, Sir, a few words regarding the Department of Industries. It is a well known fact that at the time of the war arrangements are made by Government to help the industrialisation of the province. The Industries Department of the Government of Bengal with a huge paraphernalia and huge expenses are doing nothing at all in this direction. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: They make *sola* hats!) (Laughter). This department has not taken any steps in the matter of industrialisation of the province. I may tell my friend Dr. Sanyal who has referred to the business connected with the Industries Department and I submit to this House that corruption and jobbery are going on in the name of business and this I shall lay before the House at the time of voting and discussion of the cut motions. I am in possession of facts which will go to show that highest officers in

Government employ have taken part in this sort of business and they are making money out of it. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Shame, shame.)

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: On a point of order, Sir. Is it permissible for a member to charge the highest officers of Government with jobbery, corruption and bribery without the slightest evidence being placed before the House?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He will illustrate his point. The honourable member has stated that he will place the facts before the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Biswas, it is not proper to charge the highest officers of Government in that way.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Sir, at the time of the voting I shall be able to supply the materials when we shall demand an enquiry.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Make the allegations then and not now.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: I can assure the Hon'ble Minister that when the voting of that demand comes up before the House I shall supply the House with facts and figures which will make it abundantly clear that the affairs of the department are not what they should be.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: You are legitimately entitled to do that.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Sir, may I ask the honourable member whether the gentlemen concerned did not take bribe in 1940? (Laughter).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no question.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Now, Sir, I want to say a few words about a controversial subject. The Hon'ble Finance Minister and the Hon'ble Mr. Basu who were attacking the passing of legislative measure, namely, the Sales Tax Bill have conveniently forgotten the objections that they had raised previously. Mr. Basu in his speech here and also outside this House tried to prove that Government were doing great injustice to the public, but from the Budget speech of the

Hon'ble Finance Minister we find that he has praised and eulogised that very measure. Sir, I expected that the Hon'ble Finance Minister, when he presented his Budget, would give us sufficient hints that this much-discussed and controversial sales tax would be put to better use. We, on this side of the House, Sir, supported the imposition of the sales tax on the ground that the money realised would be utilised for purposes beneficial to the rural people—I mean primary education and other things, and, Sir, we had assurances of that type, and I do not understand how the Hon'ble Finance Minister in collaboration with his colleagues can now justify the utilisation of this money in other ways—in ways which were not in the contemplation of Government then. It would have been quite proper and quite honest on the part of Government, had they stuck to the position which they took in the past.

Now, Sir, I wish to conclude my speech by saying that the way in which the Hon'ble Finance Minister has presented the Budget is wholly disappointing. It does not come up to our expectation. It has fallen far below the mark of a standard Budget. It only shows that the Budget has come from the hand of one who is fitted only for a high salaried post of the Secretariat and nothing more.

With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker then called upon Babu Ashutosh Lahiri to speak.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have had a convention that the speakers will come out from the different parties in a certain order. We had one speaker from the Progressive Coalition Party just now. After my friend Mr. Biswas has spoken it is only fair that members from our party should now speak. It will be our chance now. The Chief Whip of Government assured us that in view of the possibility of having to close the House before 12 the number of speakers from the Progressive Coalition Party will be reduced to accommodate as many speakers from the opposition as have put in their names. Four more names from my party are still waiting and I am afraid we will have to sit longer.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will have your chance.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I regret that the Budget proposals presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister do not reflect in a proper measure, the extraordinary situation in which Bengal finds herself today. Sir, we are now confronted with problems, the like of which had never troubled us during the last two hundred years. Bengal, of all other provinces in India, stands in imminent danger of invasion both by air and on sea. And yet we feel as if we

have nothing to do in the matter. We are told that military defence is no concern of the Ministry. That is all very right. But as representatives of the people we have a right to know what arrangements have been made for the effective defence of this province. The popular Ministers have got the inherent right to be taken into confidence as regards the adequacy of military defence. In the present situation ordinary constitutional niceties or proprieties must be subordinated to the peremptory call of national emergency and our Ministers must boldly come forward with the demand for being consulted about this vital question. Sir, it is a satisfaction to find that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has in his speech made that popular demand. But what we would like to know is whether the Ministry as such has officially pressed that demand upon the Government of India or on the powers that be.

Sir, even if it be a waste of efforts, this demand has to be made and must be pressed forward, energetically and tenaciously. Sir, there can be no justification for withholding any military secrets from the Ministers. If the authorities refuse to meet the demand of the Ministers in this respect, the House should be plainly informed about it and should be given an opportunity to express its own opinion over such an unfortunate situation.

Sir, the other most important question that arises directly from this grave external situation is that of internal order and security. I regret, Sir, that the Budget proposals do not disclose any special arrangements for meeting any such internal emergency. There are the civic guards no doubt but they have so far been organised only in Calcutta and certain other large cities in the province. Even if these civic guards are organised in every town, it will not touch even the fringe of the problem. The real danger will come from the village areas and not from the towns. May I ask, Sir, what arrangements exist today or are contemplated by the Minister in the event of any widespread threats to internal peace and security? With the experience of Dacca fresh in our memory and with our opponents scouring the countryside emitting blood and fire, it will be suicidal to neglect this important question. The police arrangements, as has been amply demonstrated, are hopelessly inadequate. I think, Sir, the Ministry must create a new machinery for this purpose which shall work in close co-operation with the Police. I feel, Sir, that the organisation of a national militia is of paramount importance at the present juncture. Let two hundred thousands of our youths be recruited throughout the country to this militia, and let them be armed with proper weapons. Sir, it is essential to equip the militia with firearms, if they are to discharge their duties efficiently. Let the Ministry demand from the Government the requisite arms for this purpose. Let this House itself put forward that demand.

Even if the Government do not concede this demand, that does not mean that the idea of a national militia should be abandoned. We have our indigenous *lathis* and spears. Let these serve as the weapons of our militia for the present. Sir, we are told by an Australian Minister that their soldiers had to take their exercises with broom sticks in their hands, in place of rifles, at a period when all their weapons were sent to England for defence of that country. That at any rate sets an example of a nation in grim earnest.

Coming now to the actual Budget proposals, Sir, I find that the sales tax is to continue as usual The province has been greatly agitated over this taxation and a great volume of dissatisfaction exists amongst traders and consumers about this new taxation. It was expected that the new Ministry should do something to give some relief in this respect. It will be of course, hardly fair to blame the Hon'ble Finance Minister in this matter, in view of the extraordinary situation he has to meet. I hope, however, this Ministry will keep this question in view and will take the earliest opportunity of meeting public opinion over this matter.

As regards the expenditure side, Sir, I find that the huge amount of Rs. 33 lakhs is being spent for the jute restriction scheme. This is no doubt the legacy of the last Ministry, but there is a widespread feeling in the country that this expenditure is not justified, and considerable curtailment is quite possible. I would request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to examine this question carefully and to find out whether with the help of the existing Circle Officers and the union boards this work cannot to a certain extent be carried on. At any rate the expenditure of Rs. 33 lakhs under this head appears to be indefensible.

I find that an additional grant of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided in the Budget for District School Boards for primary education. Sir, from the manner in which these Boards are working in East and North Bengal I have a serious objection to granting an additional amount for starting fresh District School Boards in new districts. Sir, I think that the whole question of constitution of District Primary School Boards has to be considered afresh and proper representation of Hindu interests in North and East Bengal districts has to be assured. Besides, the appointment of teachers, the curricula and the location of schools have been matters of serious resentment amongst the Hindus. I hope therefore that no steps will be taken for spending this money.

I find that Rs. 3½ lakhs have been sanctioned for starting 207 Debt Conciliation Boards in some of the districts. The Debt Conciliation Boards have been a sore matter to the Hindus in certain districts and I think that this question should be re-examined properly before

further Boards are started. I would request the Ministers to take proper steps for careful examination of the whole question of Debt Conciliation Boards again.

Sir, I welcome the provision of Rs. 1 lakh for the promotion of Hindu-Muslim unity. I find that from a section of the House objection has been raised over this matter. I do not know why objection should be made; in provinces like the Punjab and Sind they are spending a lakh of rupees for this purpose. The opposition members are now trying to create trouble and internal difficulties in the province not merely against the Ministry; the nature of their propaganda has been such as to create fresh misgivings amongst the Hindus. I feel, Sir, that this amount is essentially necessary in the interests of furthering Hindu-Muslim unity. Certain members have referred to the conference held recently at Serajganj. I know what happened in that conference and what sort of speeches were made there.

(At this stage, the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ——

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of information, Sir. For the last two days, the general discussion has been going on. But up till now no member from the Scheduled Caste community has been given an opportunity to speak. I desire to know from the Chair what the arrangement is about them.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They will get the chance. I am considering that now.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: মাননীয় সহকারী সভাপতি মহাশয়! বাংলা প্রদেশের সরকার বাহাদুরের বাজেট আলোচনা করার প্রথমেই মুখবন্ধে মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয় আমাদের মুখ বন্ধ কোরে দিয়েছেন। তিনি ব'লেছেন—

"All parties in the House will agree that so long as the present emergency continues, there can be no diversion of the resources of the Province to purposes that can wait. This must be the guiding principle of our budgetary plans for the coming year. We must bid adieu for a time—short or long as Providence may ordain—to the normal standards of peace-time budgeting."

এখানে তিনি বলিয়া দিয়াছেন স্পষ্ট করিয়া যে আমরা peace timeএ যে সমস্ত কর্ম্মপদ্ধতি গ্রহণ করি সে সমস্ত আপাততঃ ভুলিয়া যাইতে হইবে, এবং গোড়াতে প্রথম পৃষ্ঠায় আর এক জায়গায় বলিয়া দিয়াছেন—"In a limited sense therefore my Budget is in the nature of a War Budget". War Budget বলিয়া ইহাকে ব্যাখ্যা

করিয়াছেন। আমাদের বলিবার কিছুই ছিল না যদি সত্যই ইহা একটা War Budget হইত। বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই বাজেটে ৩৫ কোটী ৪৭ লক্ষ ৯১ হাজার এবং অন্যান্য খরচের বরাদ্দের হিসাব নিকাশ আছে। সেই ৩৫ কোটী ৪৭ লক্ষ টাকার মধ্যে সামান্য ৪ কোটী টাকা যদি Civil Defence এর নাম লইয়া War Budget বলিয়া পরিগণিত করা হয় তাহা হইলে আমি বলিব ইহা একটা মিথ্যা নাম দেওয়া ছাড়া আর কিছুই নহে। যেখানে ৩৫ কোটী টাকা Budget estimate এবং যেখানে যুদ্ধের দরুণ বাংলার দরজায় নিত্যনৈমিত্তিক ভীতির এবং প্রলয়ের সঞ্চার হইতেছে সেখানে মাত্র ৪ কোটী টাকা Civil Defence এ দেওয়া এবং তাহার নাম দেওয়া War Budget ইহা একটা বিড়ম্বনা ব্যতীত আর কিছুই নহে। যদি সত্যই ইহা War Budget বলিয়া পরিগণিত হইত এবং ইহা আগাগোড়া বর্ত্তমান পরিস্থিতিতে আমাদের রক্ষা করার জন্য হইত একটা পন্থা ঠিক করা হইত তাহা হইলে আমরা আজ কোন কথা বলিতাম না এবং ইহা সাদরে গ্রহণ করিতাম। অতএব এই বাজেটের প্রথম পৃষ্ঠায় মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয় যাহা বলিয়াছেন সে বিষয়ে আলোচনা করিতে গেলে তাঁহার এই বক্তৃতার শেষ দিক হইতে আমাদিগকে লক্ষ্য করিতে হইবে। War Budget এ তিনি যে ৪ কোটী টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন তাহার ভিতরে দেখিলে দেখা যাইবে ২ কোটীর অধিক তিনি দিয়াছেন—"Out of these 4 crores, 2 crores will be required for payment to the parsonnel of the various A. R. P. services" অর্থাৎ কিনা ৪ কোটীর ভিতর ২ কোটীর বেশী অর্দ্ধেকেরও বেশী A. R. P. Officerদের বেতন স্বরূপ দেওয়া হইয়াছে। বাংলাদেশের লোকসংখ্যার অনুপাতে এবং বাংলাদেশের যে অবস্থা ইহাতে বহিঃশত্রুর হাত হইতে রক্ষা করার খুব উপযুক্ত উপায় না থাকায় এত লোকসংখ্যার উপরে মাত্র ২ কোটীর নীচে Civil Defence সম্বন্ধে যে বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে তাহা অতি নগণ্য এবং সামান্য। এই ২ কোটীর নীচে ১ কোটী কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা—আমি মাহিনা বাদ দিয়া বলিতেছি—যদি সত্যকার ব্যয় হয় এবং তাহার যদি বিশদভাবে আলোচনা করা যায় তাহা হইলে দেখা যাইবে কলিকাতা বন্দর ছাড়া কলিকাতার বাহিরে অর্দ্ধেক টাকা যায় নাই বা যাইবে না। এই কলিকাতা সহরের জন্য যাহা ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে তাহাও যদি কলিকাতার লোক-সংখ্যার অনুপাতে এবং তাহা রক্ষা করিবার উপযুক্ত বলিয়া গণ্য হইত তাহা হইলে তাহাতে কিছু বলিবার ছিল না। কিন্তু লোক সংখ্যার অনুপাতে এবং যে অবস্থায় কলিকাতা সহর অবস্থিত এবং তাহার বাড়ীঘর তৈয়ার এবং তাহার গরীব এবং মহলের যদি প্রভেদ করা যায় তাহা হইলে দরিদ্র শ্রমিক মজুর এবং সাধারণ লোক যে অবস্থার ভিতর রহিয়াছে তাহা বিচার করিলে দেখা যাইবে এক কোটী কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা অতি সামান্য; মহল্লায় মহল্লায় যে পরিমাণে নলকূপ বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে তাহাও অতি সামান্য, এবং যাঁহারা কাগজ পড়িয়াছেন তাঁহারা অবগত আছেন যতগুলি নলকূপ কলিকাতা সহরে তৈরী করা হইয়াছে তাহার অর্দ্ধেকেরও বেশী—একথা বলিলে বোধ হয় অত্যুক্তি হইবে না যদি $\frac{২}{৩}$ অংশ বলা যায় যে তাহার জল উপাদেয় বা পানীয় নহে। ইহা গভর্ণমেণ্টের expertরা নিজেরা পরীক্ষা করিয়া বলিয়াছেন এবং এমন কিছু প্রচার এখনও করা হয় নাই, সরকার

হইতে এমন কোন আশ্বাস পাই নাই যখন প্রতিদিন আমরা আশঙ্কা করিতেছি যে কোন মুহূর্ত্তে আকাশ হইতে বা জলপথে এই দরিদ্র বাংলাদেশ আক্রান্ত হইতে পারে। সেই সকল আক্রমণ হইলে কি অবস্থা হইবে এই সমস্ত tube-well এর যেখানকার জল গভর্ণমেণ্টও বলিয়া যাইতেছেন যে পানের উপযুক্ত নয় সেই জল পান করিয়া কি করিয়া এই সমস্ত অধিবাসী বাঁচিবে তার ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই (cheers) শুধু তাই নয়; এক জায়গায় বলা হইয়াছে হাসপাতাল ইত্যাদির ব্যাপারে Civil Defence এর ভিতরে যে হাসপাতালগুলি অনেক জায়গায় যুদ্ধের অজুহাতে ভর্ত্তি হইয়াছে, outpatients' department বন্ধ করিয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছে। অথচ এদিকে বলা হইতেছে—বাজেটে যা আছে—A. R. P. কাজের জন্য Civil Defence Scheme এর মধ্যে emergency 100 beds তাতে বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে ৭ লক্ষ ৯৮ হাজার আমি বলিতে চাই—যাহা আপনারা সকলেই জানেন—যে কলিকাতায় যে কয়টী হাসপাতাল আছে তাহা সাধারণ অবস্থায় সাধারণ রোগীদের পক্ষেই সঙ্কুলান হয় না। বহু হাসপাতালে outpatients departmentএর indoor এ এতবেশী চাহিদা যে অনেক সময় সেখানে রোগীদের জায়গা হয় নাই, ফিরিয়া যাইতে হইয়াছে। অথচ emergency work ও Civil Defence এর নাম দিয়া যে বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে তাহাতে মাত্র ২০টী নূতন হাসপাতাল এবং তাহাতে মাত্র ১০০টী করিয়া beds এর ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে, অর্থাৎ মাত্র ২০টী হাসপাতালে যদি ১০০টী করিয়া beds থাকে তাহা হইলে ২ হাজার beds এর ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে। আমি সরকার বাহাদুরকে জিজ্ঞাসা করিতে চাই, আমি মেম্বরদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতে চাই যে এই কলিকাতার মত সহরে যেখানে কয়েক লক্ষ লোকের বাস সেখানে emergency work এর জন্য emergency hospitalএ মোট ২ হাজার লোকের সংস্থান হইতেছে কি করিয়া বুঝিতে পারি না। তার পরে provision for 100 reserved beds for air raid casualties ইহার জন্য এই যে ২০টী করিয়া ২ হাজার এ অতি কম হইয়াছে। A. R. P. casualtyতে রক্ষার জন্যই সামান্য হাসপাতালের ব্যবস্থা ছাড়া আর কিছুই হয় নাই। তারপরে এখানে ambulance এর যে ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে, নূতন নূতন বাসকে ambulanceএ পরিণত করিয়া তাহাও যৎসামান্য। হাসপাতালের কথা বাদ দিলে পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থা ছাড়া সরকার বাহাদুর এ পর্য্যন্ত আর কিছু করিয়াছেন কিনা? এই সহর যদি আক্রান্ত হয় তাহা হইলে তাহাদের রসদের কি উপায় হইবে? মাননীয় বক্তা Mr. Banerjee বলিয়া গিয়াছেন রেঙ্গুণে যখন দুর্দ্দশার সৃষ্টি হয় তখন মানুষের কি রকম কষ্ট হইয়াছিল। তাহারা শুধু যে সেখানে পালাইতে পায় নাই তাহা নহে, যাহারা ওখানে ছিল তাহাদের প্রত্যেকের খাওয়া দাওয়া-রসদের খুব কষ্ট হইয়াছিল, এবং এমনও শুনা গিয়াছে যে সামান্য ১ সের চাউল ১৲ টাকায় ২৲ টাকা দিয়াও পাওয়া যায় নাই। আমি বলিতে চাই এই সহর যদি আক্রমণ করে তাহা হইলে আলো এবং জল দুইয়েরই অবস্থা শোচনীয় হইবে এবং রসদ চাল ডাল তাও সে রকম সঙ্কুলান হইয়া উঠিবে না। সরকার বাহাদুর এমন কি কোন পরিকল্পনা করিয়াছেন যে যাঁহারা এই সহরে থাকিবেন,—শুধু সাধারণ Civil Population নয়, সরকারের যে সমস্ত employee এবং যে সমস্ত employee দের

emergency service বা essential public service বলিয়া পরিগণিত করিতেছেন,—যেমন ট্রাম ইত্যাদি, এই সমস্ত লোকদের জন্য সেই সময় কোথা হইতে চালডালের যোগাড় হইবে? সে সমস্ত উহারা চিন্তা করিয়াছেন কি না। সময় সংক্ষেপ, কাজেই আমাকে কম বলিতে হইতেছে। বাজেটটাকে যদি সাধারণভাবে পর্য্যালোচনা করা যায় তাহা হইলে দেখা যাইবে যে খরচ বাড়িয়াছে General Administrationএ, মন্ত্রীদের মাহিনায় Civil Secretariatএর মাহিনা, communal harmonyর জন্য ১ লক্ষ টাকা, Parliamentary Secretaryদের মাহিনা, জেল ডিপার্টমেণ্টের খরচে, পুলিশের খরচে ইত্যাদি। জেল ডিপার্টমেণ্টের যদি খবর নেন তাহা হইলে দেখিবেন লেখা আছে হিজলী এবং আর একটা কোথাকার জেল (Suggestion—বহরমপুর)—সেই দুটি জেলের কথায় আঁতকে উঠি। (Voice—এতদিন ওঠেন নি, এখন উঠছেন?) আগে ভাবিতাম আপনারা ওদিকে গেলে আপনারা খরচ কমাইয়া দিবেন, মনে করিতাম এতদিন পরে সেক্রেটারিয়েটের মাহিনা কমিয়া যাইবে, যাঁহারা আগে 3rd classএ travel করিতেন তাঁহারা অন্ততঃ 3rd class travelling করিবেন আর সেখানে গিয়া জেল ডিপার্টমেণ্টের বরাদ্দ কমাইয়া দিবেন। এদিকে দেখিলাম লঙ্কায় যে যায় সেই হয় রাবণ।

আগে ভাবিয়াছিলাম আমরা এদিকে আসিয়াছি দুঃখ নিয়ে নয়, আনন্দ নিয়ে; আমরা ভাবিয়াছিলাম যে আপনারা গদীতে গিয়া——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

MR. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয় যে statement আমাদের কাছে দিয়েছেন, সে বিষয়ে একটা কথা আমি আলোচনা করতে চাই। মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বলেছেন—it is in the nature of a war-budget। বাস্তবিক যদি তাহা হয় তাহলে আজ ১৫০ বছর পূর্ব্বে ইংরেজ রাজত্বের প্রারম্ভে বাংলাদেশের revenue দিয়ে যে অযোধ্যা জয় হয়েছিল, পাঞ্জাব জয় হয়েছিল, মারাঠাদের সঙ্গে যুদ্ধ চালান হয়েছিল,—আজও যদি তাই করা হয়, তবে বাঙ্গালীর পক্ষে খুব ভাবনার কথা এবং প্রত্যেক Lagislative Assembly memberর পক্ষে ভাবনার কথা—আমরা war-budget হতে দেব কি না। এই কয়েক বছর পূর্ব্বে যেখানে কয়েক লাখ টাকা মাত্র ছিল, প্রথমে ৭ লক্ষ টাকা ছিল; সেটা পর বছরে ৭৮ লক্ষ টাকায় পেঁছাল এবং তার পর বছর এবার অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয় বরাদ্দ করেছেন এক কোটি পঁচিশ লক্ষ টাকার উপর। তিনি বলেছেন এটা nation saving। আমি বলতে চাই, এ দ্বারা কি nation saved হবে? France এবং Poland প্রভৃতি য়ুরোপের রাজ্যসমূহ—তাদের বিরাট resources সত্ত্বেও যদি রক্ষা না পায়, আমাদের এই এক কোটি পঁচিশ লক্ষ টাকায় বাংলা কি রকমে বেঁচে থাকবে? তা যদি কেহ ভেবে থাকেন তাহলে ভুল করবেন। যদি বাস্তবিকই জাতিকে রক্ষা করতে হয়, যদি সত্যিকার nation কে save করতে হয় তাহলে জাতির প্রত্যেক ব্যক্তি, নর এবং নারী, বালক এবং বালিকা—তারা যাতে রক্ষা পায় তার চেষ্টা করতে হবে। দুঃখের বিষয় Finance Ministerএর কাছে আমরা তেমন কোন কথা শুনছি না। তা যদি করতে হয় তাহলে আমাদের কি

করতে হবে? Nation যদি save করতে হয়, তাহলে গ্রামে গ্রামে গিয়ে, তাদের ভিতর যে গঠনমূলক কাজ, তার চেষ্টা করতে হবে। কাজেই এখানে সাম্প্রদায়িক ঐক্যের জন্য বজেটে যে এক লক্ষ টাকা ধরা হয়েছে, সে খুব ভালই করা হয়েছে। আমার বামপাশের বন্ধুরা যাই বলুন না কেন, আমার মনে হয় আরও বেশী টাকা ধরা উচিত ছিল। সিন্ধুর মত একটা ছোট প্রদেশ এজন্য যদি এক লক্ষ টাকা—সাম্প্রদায়িক ঐক্যের জন্য—ব্যয় করতে পারে, তাহলে বাংলাদেশে আরও বেশী ধরা উচিত ছিল। এবং এর পর যে Supplementary Budget আসবে—তাতে যদি অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয় এইভাবে দুই লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করবার demand নিয়ে আসেন, তাহলে আমার মনে হয়, আমাদের কংগ্রেসের পক্ষ থেকে আপত্তি করার কোন কারণ থাকতে পারে না। কিন্তু টাকা দিয়ে যদি আমরা অন্য কিছু করি—যেমন হিন্দু-মহাসভার যে election বৈতরণী তা পার হয়ে যাওয়া—যদি তাই করা হয়, তাহলে আমরা ভুল করব। যাতে বাস্তবিক আন্তরিক একটা সৌহার্দ্য আমাদের হিন্দু মুসলমান ভাইগণের হতে পারে, তার চেষ্টা করতে হবে। তাহলে আমাদের করতে হবে, আমরা আজ জাতের আভিজাত্যের যে গর্ব্ব করছি, সেটাকে হ্রাস করতে হবে। আমাদের মনে করতে হবে আমরা প্রথমে হিন্দু এবং পরে ভারতবাসী তা নয়; আমরা প্রথমে মুসলমান এবং তার পর ভারতবাসী তা নয়। আমাদের মনে করতে হবে আমরা প্রথমে ভারতবাসী এবং তার পরে হিন্দু বা মুসলমান—তার পরে ব্রাহ্মণ, কায়স্থ, বৈশ্য বা মাহিষ্য বা অন্যান্য জাতি। তারপর বাজেটের সার্থকতা যদি সত্যিকার ধরা হয়, যদি এতে অস্পৃশ্যতা বর্জনের জন্য টাকা ধরা হত, তাহলে আমার মনে হয় আমার বন্ধুরা যারা এ অঞ্চলে বসেছেন, তারা সুখী হতেন। আজ আমাদের Finance Minister মহাশয় যে পদ-গৌরবে গৌরবান্বিত হয়েছেন এবং আভিজাত্যের যে সম্পর্ক তাঁর সঙ্গে রয়েছে, তাঁর হৃদয়ের মধ্যে যদি আজ মুচিকে তিনি টেনে নিতে পারতেন এবং বলতে পারতেন যে এস তোমরা, আমি এবং তোমরা এক এবং তাদের জন্যে যদি অর্থবরাদ্দ করতেন তাহলে আমরা অত্যন্ত আনন্দিত হতাম এবং বলতাম—তার পিছনে আমরা যাব। আজকে মুখো-পাধ্যায় ও বন্দোপাধ্যায় এবং চট্টোপাধ্যায়, তারা যদি দেশে এবং সমাজে যারা এখনও ক্রীতদাস তাদের সঙ্গে নিয়ে বলে যে ভারতবাসী আমরা সকলে, তোমরা এস আমাদের মধ্যে, তাহলে তাঁরা আমাদের সমস্ত রকম সমর্থন পাবেন এবং অর্থ-সচিব যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করবেন, আমরা আনন্দের সহিত সেটা অনুমোদন করব। তারপর অত্যন্ত দুঃখের বিষয় যে এই বজেটে আমরা কোথায়ও দেখতে পারছি না যে নারী জাতির জন্য কিছু করা হয়েছে। অবশ্য যা করা হয়েছে, তা অত্যন্ত মামুলি। অতীতে, ১৯৩৯, ১৯৪০, ১৯৩৮, ১৯৩৬ সালে যা করা হয়েছে তাই করা হয়েছে এবং এই নূতন বাজেটে বেশী কিছু করা হয় নি। আমরা অবশ্য বলতে পারি না যে অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয় তার জন্য সম্পূর্ণ দায়ী; এই অল্প দিন মাত্র কার্য্যভার পেয়েছেন; বাজেট তৈরি করতে অল্প সময়ই পেয়েছেন কিন্তু এর পরে, আমরা আশা করি, যে নারী জাতির মঙ্গলের জন্য বেশী করে—তাদের দলের কয়েকজন, চার জন, নারী এখানে উপস্থিত আছেন—তাদের উন্নতির জন্য যে তিনি বেশী করে চেষ্টা করবেন, তা আমরা আশা করতে পারি। কারণ যে অবস্থা তাদের—গ্রামেতে যদি কেহ আপনারা যান, দেখতে পাবেন মধ্যবিত্ত পরিবার বা দরিদ্র

পরিবারের স্ত্রীলোক—যাদের হাড় বেরিয়ে গেছে; যারা খেতে পায় না,—যাদের কাপড়ে আগুন দিলে আগুন ধরে না,—এত ময়লা কাপড়; এবং দুবার প্রসব করবার পর বৃদ্ধ হয়ে যায়; এই রকম অবস্থা থেকে যদি তাদের উদ্ধার করা হয়, তাহলে আমরা বলব—that is nation-saving—সেটাই হচ্ছে জাতি রক্ষা করা। জাতি রক্ষার মানে এই নয়—আমরা এখানে ওখানে কয়েকটা খানা কাটলাম, আর বোমা পড়লে তার ভিতরে গেলাম। এ দ্বারা জাতি-রক্ষা সম্ভব হবে না। তা করতে হলে, জাতিকে সাহসী করতে হবে, তার ভিতর গঠনমূলক কাজ করতে হবে। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে যে সমস্ত শিল্প আমাদের দেশে মরে গেছে,—আমরা আশা করি অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয়ের নিজ দেশ—হুগলী জেলায়—সেখানে তাঁর বাড়ী আছে, সেখানে যে শিল্প ছিল, মেদিনীপুর এবং বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন জেলায় যে শিল্প ছিল—আমরা আশা করি, সেই শিল্পে আবার সব গ্রাম মুখরিত হবে এবং আশা করি এই নূতন মন্ত্রিত্বের সময় আবার দেশের পল্লীগ্রাম সমৃদ্ধ হবে। তারপর আর একটা জিনিষ আমি বলতে চাই যে বাংলাদেশের সাহিত্য সম্বন্ধে, বাংলাভাষার চর্চ্চা সম্বন্ধে এই বাজেটে যদি টাকা ধরা হত, তাহলে আমরা খুব সুখী হতাম। আমাদের বর্ত্তমান অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয়ের স্বর্গগত প্রাতঃস্মরণীয় পিতা, আমাদের বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে বাংলাভাষা প্রবর্ত্তন করে আমাদের আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা লাভ করেছেন। আমরা আশা করি যে, আমাদের অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয় প্রাদেশিক সাহিত্য ও ভাষা প্রচলনের জন্য, যাতে বেশী সংখ্যক লোক এই ভাষা শিখতে পারে, তার জন্য চেষ্টা করবেন। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমি বলব ভারতবর্ষের যে রাষ্ট্রভাষা হবে, সেই হিন্দুস্থানীর জন্য যদি কিছু টাকা বরাদ্দ করেন, তাহলে আমরা সুখী হব। এই হচ্ছে জাতি গঠন-মূলক কাজ। আমি আশা করি যে অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয়, এখন না পারেন, এর পরে যে Supplementary Budget আনবেন তখন যদি এই সমস্ত বিষয় বিবেচনা করেন, তাহলে আমরা অত্যন্ত সুখী হব। আমরা অবগত আছি তিনি অত্যন্ত বাধা বিঘ্নের ভিতর দিয়ে কাজ করছেন। তাই এই সময় বেশী কথা বলে তাঁকে এবং তাঁর দলকে বিব্রত করার ইচ্ছা আমাদের নেই।

Mr. UPENDRANATH EDBAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the 5th year of our constitutional reform which was granted under the Government of India Act, 1935. Normally this would be the closing year of the 1st term. Had there been no abnormal situation, I mean the war situation, in due course the general election of the Legislative Assembly certainly would have been held this year, and I think the present Finance Minister would not have got the chance of submitting the Budget Estimate for 1942-43.

In previous years as usual the then Finance Ministers Mr. Sarker and Mr. Suhrawardy submitted their respective budgets and we the Assembly members did take part in the general discussion of the Budgets and made caustic and critical remarks on them in the hope that in future Budgets we shall see improvements, but we are utterly mistaken.

I must thank the Hon'ble Dr. Mookerjee for the chance he has received to submit the Budget for 1942-43. We had high notion of his outstanding capacity and ability and we thought that the right person had been placed in charge of Finance. But we are utterly hopeless to find that he has simply chewed the cud, i.e., he has only repeated the previous years' Budget with some petty modifications and alterations which are indispensable. His statement before the House may be a learned one, may be couched in elegant language and idiomatic English, but he has failed to formulate new schemes and plans for the improvement of the agriculturists of Bengal. I am sure although he is a citizen of Calcutta and was born and brought up under the guidance of his illustrious father, he must have learnt through books that Bengal is an agricultural province. The population of Bengal has increased by leaps and bounds, agriculture does not yield so much nowadays, and the problem of unemployment is becoming acuter day by day. Was it not, I ask, incumbent on the Hon'ble Finance Minister to frame the Budget in such a way as would help to industrialise this agricultural province of Bengal? I submit it was. But nothing has been done in that direction. The Finance Ministers may come and the Finance Ministers may go or be made to go, but the lot of Bengal is not likely to be better in the near future.

A sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been provided in the Budget for restoring peace and harmony among different communities. That is really a very laudable move. But the Hon'ble Minister has simply ignored the legitimate share of the Scheduled Castes so far as the Ministerial issue is concerned and no provision has been made in the Budget for Scheduled Caste Ministers. I doubt if he will be successful in his attempt, on the other hand I think he will poison the good feelings of the Scheduled Castes of Bengal as a whole and in place of peace and harmony, I am sure, discord and ill-feelings will reign throughout the province. I, therefore, sound a note of warning to the present Cabinet that it would be better if they would include one Minister from the Scheduled Castes immediately. We have learnt that one Minister from the Scheduled Castes will be taken after the session. But considering the grave situation of the country and other circumstances as well we are forced to believe that our lot in the present regime is likely to be sealed for ever, if a Minister from the Scheduled Castes is not taken immediately.

In conclusion, may I ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister whether at the present moment Government is earnest to include one Minister from the Scheduled Castes to the Cabinet during the session? Will the Finance Minister make the position clear before the House? When the present Ministry was first formed in the month of December, we thought that this Ministry would be a national Ministry, but now we

see that this Ministry is not national in action, it is only national in dress. If the Ministry is not really national in spirit, I am sure the life of the present Ministry will not be very long. If the Ministry really does not want to create a situation by which its position may be crippled, I might say, as I have said before, that one Minister from the Scheduled Castes should be taken immediately. The Ministry should discuss and settle this matter in the Cabinet after consulting the various parties forming the Coalition and should not delay in the appointment of a Minister from the Scheduled Castes Group.

Lastly, as regards the salary of the Ministers we heard much about the Congress Ministry and the National Ministry in the regime of the old Ministry. We thought and maintained that the Congress Ministers would not take much, they might take a small salary not exceeding Rs. 1,000, but now we see that they are drawing Rs. 2,500 as their salary. So I request them to reduce their salary in the near future.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKERJI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while rising to speak on this Budget I cannot but conceal my disappointment in the way it has been framed. We had great hopes in the ability of Dr Syamaprasad Mookerjee when he was in the opposition. We expected some new orientation of the Budget but, Sir, our hopes are dashed to the ground. This Budget is no better than the previous Budget by the erstwhile ministry. I wonder, Sir, how could the intelligence of the Hon'ble Finance Minister frame a replica Budget of the much-criticised and much-condemned ministry. It seems to me like the adoption of the posthumous baby of our late Finance Minister.

Admittedly, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister had a very short time at his disposal to frame this Budget but it must not be forgotten that we on this side have cherished high hopes in him. So much so we considered what would have been an impossibility with an ordinary person, would be an easy job for him. I am afraid, Sir, he did not exert himself, possibly as he has said that "Government is a running concern with all its commitments, good and bad" particularly so when some of the old Ministers are still in the Cabinet.

Sir, catchphrases are always used to beguile persons in politics and I find that Dr. Mookerjee could not replace the use of it. He has supplanted the word of Sir Surendra Nath's "Nation-building" by a new catchword "Nation-saving" and justifies spending nearly 4 crores on that head. Every one of us knows, Sir, how defenceless is this province, as a matter of fact the whole country.

BABU NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTI : On a point of order, Sir, আমি একটা বিষয়ে ruling চাই যে, যে সমস্ত সভ্য বক্তৃতা করতে চান তাঁদের দাঁত বাঁধান উচিৎ আমরা কিছুই বুঝতে পারি না। (Laughter)

DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL : আমাদের কয়েকটি বন্ধুর বিষ দাঁত ভেঙ্গে গেছে, তাঁদের ওদিকে যাওয়া উচিৎ।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKERJI: Do we really seriously think, Sir, that by erecting few baffle walls round about the Government Buildings at a cost of 9 lakhs, we shall save the city of Calcutta from Air Raids? I admit, Sir, I am not one of them.

The lavish expenses that we are going to make in my humble opinion will not be effective in saving this city, without proper defence measure. All of us know how inadequately we are protected here. I consider the expenses made on this head are a sheer waste of public money. It would have been well spent in the old ideas of spending for "Nation-building".

I do admit, Sir, that the primary duty of a Government is to govern, to administer and to defend the people and certainly I agree with the Hon'ble Minister that no Government can neglect any of these functions without exposing itself "to the charges of blindness and incompetency".

Does the Hon'ble Minister really and seriously think that the Cabinet is administering the province in an autonomous way? I have my doubts, Sir. Every day, when we open the newspaper in the morning we find that people are arrested and detained without trial by scores. Our esteemed colleague Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose has been detained and removed from this province on the eve of the formation of this very Ministry. So far, Sir, we find the Ministers have not been able to secure his release or even his repatriation to this province. Another of our colleagues Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee is sharing the similar fate and still we have the talk of co-operation with the Centre organisation of A.R.P. and of defence measure on an arrangement of receiving bounties on a slab system. Sir, on this side we never expected from the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he will be selling the birth-right of this province in lieu of receiving few lakhs of rupees from the Centre.

To arrange Defence, Sir, is not within the scope of provincial finance. Why do we then worry? Do you really think, Sir, that by having few slit trenches in the parks of Calcutta and by having some emergency hospitals we will save our hearth and home and our children? I am a great optimist, Sir, but even my optimism has its limitations here.

I know, Sir, these are all sentimental talks and do not fit in the discussions of the Budget where we deal in figures. I shall deal only with one case and charge this Ministry with a breach of faith to the Assembly in utilising for general administration purposes the funds of the new taxation—sale tax, etc. We were given to understand, Sir, that these new taxations are meant for nation-building purposes and the whole Assembly discussed them threadbare but now it has been utilised otherwise. I expected at least the charity of a few lakhs by the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the nation-building purposes—for the use of the poor villagers who are paying them for their everyday needs of life.

Four crores is going to be spent mostly for the protection of the city of Calcutta and its suburbs. I do recognise the claim of this city but we must not forget the crying needs of the dying millions of the villages.

I have already encroached upon the valuable time of the House and I end with a few words more.

The beautiful addendum expressing the pious wishes for and expectancies of the Hon'ble Finance Minister on the Premier of the British Empire is really a waste of breath. Dame misfortune is still pursuing the lonely M.P. of 1930 who announced one day that "it is really a day of misfortune to the British Empire when a half-naked seditious *fakir* was striding over the marble staircase of the Viceregal Palace to parley with the representative of the British Empire".

By turn of the wheel of fortune or shall I say misfortune today he is the Premier of the British Empire. He has learnt many sad lessons but his final lesson is, it seems as yet incomplete as we still hear his Atlantic Charter. We have seen him gripping the hands of the Red in friendship, we have seen him welcoming Marshal Chiang-Kai-Shek not only as the honoured guest of the Viceregal Palace but also acknowledging him as the generalissimo of the land forces in the East for A.B.C.D. We do not know how many more turns there will be in the wheel of misfortune before it will come to a standstill announcing the fructification of the pious wishes of the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

Maulvi MD. ABDUR RASHEED: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the only two items of expenditure in an otherwise colourless Budget presented by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister which requires the serious consideration of the House are the provisions of Rs. 1 lakh for the promotion of communal harmony in the province and Rs. 76,000 for meeting the salaries of Parliamentary Secretaries. Normally the Budget would have come in for a very serious criticism on account of the omissions of any provision for nation-building institutions, but situated as we are, with the war knocking at our doors, it is difficult to blame the

Hon'ble the Finance Minister for lack of will for the improvement of the province in any direction which the Budget at the first sight discloses. The crying need of the moment is a live organisation for proper arrangements for Civil Defence in this province. A large sum of money has been provided for this purpose but I am afraid the manner in which this difficult problem. It met twice or thrice and ultimately died of of a considerable proportion of this amount in non-essentials. As this is a matter of which few of us have any practical experience, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this department has necessarily to depend on the advice of his experts but by the manner in which the A. R. P. and other staff has been multiplied, particularly by the recruitment of old and retired officers for active duties and the amount of money being spent on establishment, one cannot be blamed for feeling that there is a considerable wastage of the funds.

Coming to the provision of Rs. 1 lakh for the promotion of communal harmony, one ought to ordinarily be grateful for any attempt in this noble cause if we could believe in the sincerity of the Government in this respect. The bitter controversies of the last 5 years have blackened the face of the country and has spread communal hatred and ill-feeling throughout the length and breadth of the Province. Anything which will put a stop to this state of things and bring about peace and amity among all classes of the people should be welcomed with open arms. If this could be attained by spending money we would gladly vote even 10 times the amount it has now been provided for. Past experience, however, has made us pessimistic. We have had no lack of slogans shouted at the top of our voice, writings in press and speeches from platforms all deprecating communalism and partisanship and urging peace and harmony. But what has been the result? A representative committee was formed a couple of years ago to solve this difficult problem is being handled would mean the frittering away inanition. It is not necessary to investigate the real cause of difference between the two major communities. They are well known. What is necessary is a change of heart and a strong will to eradicate the evil and this I am afraid is lacking. As we all know the points of difference between the two major communities are religious, economic and political. As we know the questions of cow sacrifice and music before mosque have not yet been solved and are the fruitful source of the periodical communal riots which rouse the passions of the people. Has any attempt in the past been seriously made to solve this problem? Is the working President of the Hindu Mahasabha prepared to go to the country and tell the Hindus not to interfere with the primary right of every Mussalman to follow his religious observances? Is the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq who claims to be the leader of the 33 millions of Bengali Mussalmans prepared to tell them not to object to processions with music before mosques? Are the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad

Mookerjee and his colleagues of the Hindu Mahasabha agreeable to give the Mussalmans their due share in services and proper representation in all public institutions? Are they prepared to stop the Hindu Press from misrepresentation and false propaganda against Mussalmans and their political activities? Are they prepared to tackle these problems with sincerity and courage without keeping an eye on the future ballot box? If they can, no money is necessary to achieve communal harmony; otherwise a mint of money will not improve the position in the slightest degree.

Sir, in the political arena during the last five years the two main actors have been the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq and the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee. Their activities and their irresponsible utterances have to a great extent led to the present deplorable position of communal ill-feeling in the country. By a fortuitous concourse of circumstances the two opposing stars have now come to each other's arms and have started this new project and are now preaching for communal harmony. The Mussalmans of Bengal cannot be blamed if they fail to dance with pleasure at this new move. They have every reason to distrust the sincerity of their motives. One who not very long ago openly stated that all Hindu officials of the province are disloyal and untrustworthy, who became the lion of Bengal by promising condign punishment against the Hindus of Bengal if the Hindu majority provinces oppressed the Mussalmans, one who tried his best to induce the Mussalmans to give their sanction to "Dog-racing" to enable him to find money to carry on a campaign against the Hindu press, one who openly disclosed his feelings towards the Hindus in the Town Hall by stating that if he entered into a Coalition with the Congress and the Hindu Mahasabha he would be acting like a Mirjafar and would not be able to show his face to his Creator if he ruined the Mussalmans in that manner, has now assumed the role of the Protector of the Hindus and guardian of their rights and interests.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

SRIJUT ASHUTOSH MALLIK: সারা বিশ্বের এই ডামা-ডোলের বাজারে, বাংলা সরকারের বর্ত্তমান বাজেট, মায়ের বোন মাসীর বিভীষিকায় আড়ষ্ট,—ভয়ে যেন জড়োসড়। সন্তান অতি কুৎসিত জন্মালেও সে যেমন নবকুমার, কন্যাদায়ে ভিটেমাটি সর্ব্বস্ব বিক্রয়ে নিঃস্ব হয়ে পথের ভিখিরী সেজেও কন্যা সম্প্রদানে সে যেমন শুভ বিবাহ,—আবার তাতে ক্ষেত্রবিশেষে গৌরীদানের ফললাভ, এবং অতিশয় দুর্দ্দশাগ্রস্ত অতি বড় পাপীর মৃত্যুও চিরন্তনী প্রথায় যেমন স্বর্গারোহণ তেমনি যে কোন কারণেই হোক, বাংলা সরকারের এবারকার বাজেটও অনর্পিত চরীং চিরাৎ নয়; ইহা চিরাচরিত, গতানুগতিক এবং একঘেয়ে। অবশ্য দুঃখের রামপ্রসাদী সুর এক ঘেয়ে না হয়ে পারে না। এবার যদিচ উহা শ্যামাপ্রসাদী তানলয়সমন্বিত সুরশৃঙ্গারে ঝঙ্কৃত। (Cheers) বাংলার

দুর্ভাগ্য, উপলক্ষ্যের দ্বারা লক্ষ্যটা প্রায়ই চাপা পড়ে। যেমন যে গান শিখ্‌তে চায়, সে ওস্তাদি শিখে বসে; যে ধনী হতে চায়, সে টাকা জমিয়ে পরমুখাপেক্ষী ও অন্যের কৃপাপাত্র হয়ে ওঠে। তেমনি যারা দেশের হিত চান, তারা সভাসমিতিতে resolution পাশ কোরে কর্ত্তব্য শেষ করেন এবং নিজদিগকে কৃতার্থ মনে করেন।

মন্ত্রীমহাশয় তাঁর বাজেট-বক্তৃতার প্রারম্ভিক মঙ্গলাচরণে আসন্ন যুদ্ধ-বিগ্রহ, বক্তৃতায় আগাগোড়া কেবল গতানুগতিকতার সাপক্ষে কৈফিয়ৎ দিয়ে, উপসংহারে স্বস্তিবাচন পাঠ করে শান্তিবারি নিক্ষেপ ক'রেছেন মাত্র। কৈফিয়তের বাড়াবাড়িতে মনে হয়, মন্ত্রীমহাশয় যেন নিরুপায়। মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের প্রদর্শিত শৈশবত্বের কৈফিয়ৎ সন্তোষ-জনক ত নয়ই মন্ত্রী সন্তোষকুমারেরও মনঃপূত কি না কে বল্‌তে পারে? তবে ভাবে গতিকে যেন অনুমান হয়, হয়ত তাঁর দলই উহা পছন্দ করেন না। বাংলাদেশের শিশুমৃত্যুর হার উপেক্ষা কর্‌লেও অকালবার্দ্ধক্যের আব্‌হাওয়া তো উপেক্ষা করা চলে না। ভয় হয়, পাছে এ বছরের বাজেটে শৈশবত্বের ছেলেমানুষি, অর্থহীন ব্যর্থ অজুহাত, এবং আগামী বছরে—ভগবান্ করুন, যদি কোন বিঘ্ন না ঘটে, মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর কায়েমী বন্দোবস্তের আমলে, বার্দ্ধক্যের যুক্তিপূর্ণ কৈফিয়ৎমাত্র শুনেই যথালাভে সন্তোষ ভেবে সন্তোষ লাভ কর্‌তে হবে। যা হোক, তিনি শাক দিয়ে মাছ ঢাক্‌বার চেষ্টা করেন নি—তিনি স্বীকার করেছেন "In the circumstances,. . . . . nation-saving takes the place of nation-building"। এতে মনে হয়, বাংলা সরকারের যেন গরীব মানুষি কর্‌বারও সামর্থ্য নেই। আজ বাংলাদেশের বাংলার সরকার এত গরীব যে এখনও তার গিল্টি করা অলঙ্কার ব্যবহার কর্‌তে হয়। কবে বাংলার এমন সুদিন আস্‌বে যখন সে সত্যিকার পিতলের অলঙ্কার পোর্‌তে সাহস পাবে। এখনও তার রূপার এত অভাব যে অন্যের সম্মুখে রূপার থালায় ভাত না খেলে তাকে লজ্জায় ম'রে যেতে হয়। আমাদের বিশ্বাস ছিল রাজশ্রীর প্রগতিশীল দলের আমলে একটা কিছু নূতন ওলট-পালট হবেই কিন্তু অবশেষে দেখা গেল যে তিনিও গদীর ওপরেই বসেন এবং অভ্যাগতদিগকে নীচে বসান। কাজেই জানা গেল যে তাদের গরীব মানুষি কর্‌বার মত সম্পত্তি নেই, আর বড়মানুষি করবার মত প্রতিভাও নেই। বাংলাসরকারের টাকা আছে বটে কিন্তু নিঃশব্দে টাকা হজম করতে পারে না—পরিপাক শক্তির অভাব। একে কি আর বড় মানুষি বলে। অথচ বাজেটে বাজে খরচ। আসন্ন যুদ্ধে বিপন্নের সহায়তায় অল্প স্বল্প নয়, একেবারে চার চার কোটি টাকা। সমগ্র আয়ের চৌথ। ব্যয় বরাদ্দের পর্য্যালোচনায় দেখা যায়, ইহার এক কপর্দ্দকও, যাদের গচ্ছিত টাকা, তাদের জন্য ব্যয়িত হবার সম্ভাবনা নেই। বরাদ্দের অধিকাংশ "তৈলাক্ত মস্তকেই তেল মর্দ্দন"। সহরতলীর লোকের জন্যই যেন এই বিপুল স্থূল ব্যয় বরাদ্দ। যদিচ জাতি-গঠন সমস্যা পরে, এবং জাতি রক্ষা সর্ব্বাগ্রে, তথাপি সেই সুযোগে আজে-বাজে খরচ করা সমীচিন নয়। বাংলা সরকার এই বরাদ্দের টাকাটা এইভাবে অপব্যয় না করে গঠনমূলক কার্য্যে ব্যয় কর্‌লে হয়তো এক ঢিলে দুটো পাখী মার্‌তে পার্‌তেন। এই বরাদ্দের সম্যক টাকা আকস্মিক মৃত্যুর হাত হ'তে এড়াবার পরিকল্পনায় ব্যয়িত হ'য়েছে। কিন্তু তাতে তার পরের সমস্যা জীবনরক্ষা কল্পে কোন ব্যবস্থারই উল্লেখ নেই। সংগ্রামের ধ্বংসস্তূপের উপর পুণর্গঠনের পরিকল্পনা নিয়ে এই টাকা ব্যয়িত

হ'লে নিঃসন্দেহে উহা যুদ্ধের প্রত্যক্ষ এবং পরোক্ষ ক্ষতির হাত হতে নিষ্কৃতি পাওয়ার উপায় নির্দ্ধারণ ক'রতে সমর্থ হ'ত। এইজন্য আমি মনে করি, এই টাকাটা, পল্লী-গঠন, পল্লীসংস্কার, জাতিগঠন, জাতিসংস্কার, পল্লী শিল্প ও জাতীয় শিল্পের উন্নতিকল্পে ব্যয়িত হওয়ার প্রয়োজন ছিল। কিন্তু বাংলাসরকার অন্যের উপদেশে, কেন্দ্রীয় পরিষদের আদেশে নির্দ্দেশে বাংলাপ্রদেশে নৈরাশ্যের পুনরভিনয় করেছেন মাত্র। যখন কোটি কোটি টাকার শ্রাদ্ধেও সিঙ্গাপুর রক্ষা করা গেল না, শিঙ্গা ফুঁকে দিলে, তখন কিঞ্চিৎ মাত্র চার কোটি টাকা বাংলা দেশকে কি ক'রে রক্ষা কর্‌বে? তা' ছাড়া আধুনিক ধ্বংসশীল বোমা বর্ষণের হাত হ'তে রক্ষা পাবার জন্য যে সমস্ত উপকরণ প্রয়োজন, বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেণ্টের অনুগ্রহে আমাদের তার কিছুমাত্র সংগ্রহ বা প্রয়োগ করবার অধিকার নেই। এমন কি ঐ বিষয়ে চিন্তামাত্রও দোষাবহ। তখন এর চেয়ে এই চার কোটি টাকায় বাংলার সাড়ে পাঁচ কোটি লোকের রক্ষাকল্পে রক্ষা কবচের ব্যবস্থা কর্‌লে এর চেয়ে বেশী উপকার হ'ত এবং হয়তো পাইকারী দরে অসঙ্কুলানও হ'ত না। যেহেতু "ন চ দৈবাৎ পরং বলম্"। দৈব বলে বলীয়ান্ থাক্‌লে জাপানী বোমার সাধ্য কি, যে কেশাগ্র স্পর্শ কর্‌তে পারে। হিন্দু মুসলমান জাতিনির্ব্বিশেষে বাঙ্গালী আমরা কবচের মাহাত্ম্যে বিশ্বাস করি। কাজেই অযথা কালবিলম্ব না করে "সরস্বতী কবচের" অফিসে লোকবৃদ্ধির ব্যবস্থা ক'রে কবচসংগ্রহে তৎপর হওয়া প্রয়োজন। "অলম্ ইতি বিস্তারেণ"।

Adjournment.

It being 11-20 a.m.—

The House was adjourned till 8-30 a.m. on Monday, the 23rd February, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 23rd February, 1942, at 8-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 7 Hon'ble Ministers and 196 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Building grants to Scheduled Caste middle English and high English schools.

*48. **Mr. MONOMOHAN DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing for the years 1939-40 to 1941-42—

(*i*) the amount that has been allotted as building grants to—

(1) middle English, and

(2) high English

schools, maintained by the Scheduled Castes in the Province; and

(*ii*) the amounts that have already been given to the different schools of the Province as building grants, specially mentioning the schools, district by district, during these three years?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the basis on which these building grants are distributed?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the present number of Scheduled Caste middle English schools in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh that are in receipt of building grants?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of giving building grants to those middle English schools in the said districts that have not received them as yet?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION and COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): (*a*) (*i*) (1) Rs. 75,000 and (2) Rs. 75,000.

(*ii*) A detailed statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*b*) On the grant-in-aid basis with relaxation of the condition of local contribution.

(*c*) Dacca—Nil and Mymensingh—3.

(*d*) Yes, when adequate funds are available for the purpose.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Government expect that adequate funds will be available?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That is in the womb of futurity.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that there has been an increase of Rs. 15 lakhs more for the current year than the amount actually spent under the head "Education"?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I want notice.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister please look into the budget under review where he will find this figure?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I can assure the honourable member that all matters connected with the Schedule Castes education will receive Government's very anxious consideration.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state the reason why no grant was made to Dacca district for construction of buildings for Schedule Caste schools?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: In the first place, I should think that there were no applications and in the second place I should think that Dacca has too much of education, so much so that they do not think of middle English education.

Grant of war allowance to Government Servants.

***49. Maulvi AZHAR ALI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the abnormal rise in the price of foodstuff and other daily necessaries of life has hard hit the ministerial officers and menials in the employment of the Bengal Government;

(*ii*) that both the ministerial officers and menials have made representation to the Government for the grant of an *ad interim* allowance pending revision of their salaries;

(*iii*) that during the last Great European War grain compensation allowance was granted to them; and

(*iv*) that present economic condition of the Province is worse than what prevailed during the last War?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken to ameliorate the condition of ministerial officers and menials under the Government?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee): (*a*) (*i*) The abnormal rise in the price of rice must have hit hard those low paid Government servants in whose budgets food is the main item.

(*ii*) Petitions have been received asking for an extension of, or an increase in, the dearness allowance admissible in terms of Finance Department Resolution No. 1635F., dated the 8th July, 1940.

(*iii*) During the 1914-1918 War, grain compensation allowance in Bengal was admissible only to Government servants whose pay did not exceed Rs.12.

(*iv*) No.

(*b*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to Finance Department Resolution No. 1635-F., dated the 8th July, 1940, a copy of which has been laid on the Library Table.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: With reference to answer (*a*) (*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his reply is based on an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Yes.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the *Calcutta Gazette*, February, 1942, the price of rice has been published as 6 seers and 12 chhatacks per rupee?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: The answer relates to the position in the entire province as a whole and not with regard to any particular area.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether this allowance has been given to Calcutta people who are in the employ of Government?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: So far as Calcutta is concerned, the dearness allowance has been increased by one rupee more affecting persons who are drawing Rs 30 and less.

Arrangement for drinking water and charitable dispensaries in Sundarban area of 24-Parganas.

***53. Maharaja SASHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHOUDHURY, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department aware that in the Sundarban area of the 24-Parganas—

(*i*) there is no arrangement for supply of drinking water; and

(*ii*) there is no charitable dispensary?

(*b*) If so, what steps do the Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (*a*) (*i*) There are arrangements for supply of drinking water in the Sundarban area of the 24-Parganas made not only by the local bodies but also Government and the local public.

There are already 161 tube wells and 43 tanks in that area. In the comprehensive scheme for Rural Water Supply, provision has been made for 2,242 new sources of supply in the 9 thanas comprising partly or wholly in the Sundarban area. There will be a proportionate allotment of funds for this area from the current year's grant.

(*ii*) There are charitable dispensaries at Belpukur, Sagore, Kakdwip, Gada-Mathurapur, Canning, Devisabad, Minakhan, Gosaba, Sandeshkhali, Rameswarpur, Hingalganj, Jogeshgunge, Gopalpur, and Dholetukri. Besides, there are also a few malaria treatment centres and zemindari dispensaries at Chaital, Kalinagar, Ukil Babu's Hat, etc.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the total area of this tract of land?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I want notice.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the thanas within which these charitable dispensaries and these 2,242 tube-wells are situate?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I want notice.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: In view of the vastness of the area, does the Hon'ble Minister think that the provision made is adequate for the purpose?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I do not think that the provision is adequate, but there is a comprehensive rural water-supply scheme which is being attempted to be worked out.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: So far as charitable dispensaries are concerned, will the Hon'ble Minister please take into account that the provision is inadequate?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I shall certainly look into that.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: With reference to paragraph 2, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the allotment of fund regarding water-supply has already been made to the district board?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: So far as current year's grant is concerned, I am not sure whether money has been drawn, but I know that different district boards have been allotted certain sums of money.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly enquire into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Yes.

Improvement of roads in Khulna and Jessore districts.

*56. **Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) the total mileage of motorable roads in the Khulna district;

(b) the present state of the Navaran-Satkhira Road;

(c) whether the Khulna-Bagerhat Road has any prospect of being macadamized in the near future;

(d) whether the Singia—Eastern Bengal Railway (Jessore district) Daulatpur (Khulna district) road is likely to be taken up by the Road Board for making it motorable throughout the year; and

(e) whether the Singia-Calcutta portion of the road is motorable throughout the year?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (a) I have no information.

I however understand that there are approximately 94 miles of metalled roads in the Khulna district; these may be taken to be motorable.

(b) Of the Navaran-Ellispur section consolidated of stone metal is complete and the second coat of painting will be applied this cold weather.

The Ellispur-Satkhira section of the road has not yet been taken up but it is proposed to approach the Government of India to sanction as a special case this length so as to complete the original scheme.

(c) and (d) No.

(e) The road from Jessore to Calcutta is a Provincial road and motorable throughout the year.

The road from Jessore to Singia is a District Board road. I understand that this portion of the road is metalled and as such should be motorable

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (c) and (d), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is no present prospect of the Khulna-Bagerhat Road and the Singia-Daulatpur Road being macadamized?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: No, I have already answered that.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why these are not yet macadamized?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot tell you offhand, but I will look into it.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Does he know that the distance from Singia to Daulatpur is only 20 miles and if this portion is macadamized, the whole road from Calcutta to Khulna becomes motorable?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I will look into that.

Disposal of dead bodies.

***57. Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) With reference to the complete answer to starred question No. 227 laid on the Library Table on the 3rd September, 1941, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) who were the persons invited at the proposed Conference;

(*ii*) what organisations they represented; and

(*iii*) what were the reasons for which the Conference could not be held?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether representatives of the Hindu Mahasabha and the Hindu Satkar Samity were invited?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there exists a feeling amongst the Hindu public for Hindu dead bodies being subjected to dissection?

(*e*) If so, do the Government propose to come to an early decision in the matter, with or without any conference?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) The first conference that was held on 20th November, 1936, included representatives of the Hindu Satkar Samity, the Anjuman Mufidul Islam and the Christian Burial Board. It was proposed to hold another conference but the idea was ultimately abandoned and no invitation was issued to any organisation. Government consider that the matter cannot be solved satisfactorily in a conference in the present atmosphere of the country.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

(*d*) Complaints have been made to Government against the use of unclaimed dead bodies of Hindu patients for dissection purposes.

(*e*) Government are trying to solve the problem in the best possible way. But as it is a very complicated matter, it will naturally take time to come to a decision.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where is the complication when the Hindus demand nothing more than what is conceded to the Muslims and Christians with regard to dead bodies?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no question. You can put it in another form.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Government please explain where the complication lies?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The complication lies in the fact that if dead bodies are not available, scientific research becomes almost impossible and dissection being an essential factor in medical education, medical education will be held up for all time without it. So far as dead bodies of persons belonging to other communities are concerned, there has been a sort of stalemate inasmuch as the Christians and the Muslims have already obtained the advantage of their dead bodies not being available for these purposes. In order that the question may be reopened a suitable atmosphere is necessary, so that some useful purpose may be served by any conference and we are waiting for that atmosphere.

Cholera epidemic in Sandwip, Noakhali.

***58. Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department aware—

(*i*) that cholera has broken out in epidemic form in the island of Sandwip in the district of Noakhali; and

(*ii*) that a large number of men are dying every week?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total number of persons who died of cholera since its outbreak in February last; and

(*ii*) the number of attacks and deaths that occurred during the week ending on the 31st July, 1941?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes, comparatively large. A statement showing the weekly figures of attacks and deaths from cholera at Sandwip from 1st February, 1941, to 16th August, 1941, is laid on the Library Table.

(*b*) (*i*) 553.

(*ii*) During the week ending the 26th July, 1941 (and not on the 31st July, 1941), there were 185 attacks and 90 deaths.

Committee regarding conversion of reserved forests into pasture grounds.

***60. Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 94 on the 25th February, 1941, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department be pleased to state in relation to the Committee appointed by the Government—

(*i*) the number of times the said Committee have met; and

(*ii*) whether any report has been submitted by them?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a copy of the said report?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the FOREST and EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath Barman): (*a*) (*i*) Twice.

(*ii*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) The report is not yet ready.

Settling of some toddy shops of Barrackpore Circle with non-Bengalis.

***61. Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department be pleased to state whether in settling the excise shops preference is generally given to Bengalis?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for settling the *tari* shops of Alambazar, Kharda, Titagarh, Talpukur, Chundanpooker and Nayabasti of Barrackpore Circle of 24-Parganas with a non-Bengali?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: (*a*) Preference is generally given to Bengalis in settling excise shops under the fixed-fee system. In the case of the shops that are settled by auction, the best offer is accepted.

(*b*) There have been no Bengalis amongst the *tari* vendors of the Barrackpore Circle for many years. Last year, too, all the licensees were non-Bengalis.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there was a large Bengali population in Barrackpore and notices to that circle do not reach them and as a result they cannot bid at the auction sale?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: What is your question?

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: My point is that notices are not duly served. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the notices were duly served through the local bodies of Barrackpore?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: Certainly. It is done as a general rule. It must have been done on the last occasion also.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: The allegation is that these notices were not served properly. Therefore will the Hon'ble Minister see that they are served to the local bodies of Barrackpore, so that the Bengali population can bid at the auction sale?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: Government have got no application from the Bengali population to the effect that notices are not served.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please look into the matter as to why the Bengalis are not coming forward?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I do not know, but the thing is this: these *toddy* shops are generally dependent upon the operation of palm trees. These things are generally done by the up-country men who are called *pashis*. There might be difficulties for Bengalis to procure them and utilise them for the purpose of tapping the palm trees and for this reason perhaps the Bengalis do not come. Anyhow I shall look into the matter.

Debenture Scheme.

***62. Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state what is the present stage of the Debenture Scheme?

(*b*) Do the Government contemplate to give effect to it?

(*c*) If so, when?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hashem Ali Khan): (*a*) A scheme for the rehabilitation of the Co-operative Societies is under examination of Government.

(*b*) and (*c*) As soon as the scheme is approved by Government.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how long this scheme is and will be before the Government? We are hearing this from time immemorial.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I am sorry to inform the House that the matter is under consideration or rather was under consideration of the late Finance Minister for more than a year. The file has been recently sent back to the department and it is now under the consideration of the present Finance Minister, and I think it will not take a long time to come to a decision.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Affairs of Bhatpara Municipality.

39. Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the notes of Audit of the Accounts of the Bhatpara Municipality for the year 1938-39 as submitted by the Examiner of Local Accounts, Bengal; and

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that serious irregularities have been brought to light therein?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, he has taken or proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The explanation of the Municipal Commissioners has been obtained and the whole matter is now under my consideration

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Subdivisional Officer and the Commissioner have recommended the suspension of the Municipality?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Yes.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Is it a fact that a lawyer was appointed by the Municipality to represent its case before the Hon'ble Minister personally?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Two lawyers were appointed by the Municipality when a chance was given to them to represent their point of view before Government.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Is it a fact that the lawyers have drawn over Rs. 1,600 from the Municipality?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I want notice. I have had no information with regard to that.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Is it a fact that one of the lawyers who appeared before the Hon'ble Minister acted as his junior when he practised in the High Court?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Many lawyers acted as my juniors when I practised as a lawyer.

Promulgation of notice under section 40 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act in Dinajpur.

40. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that notices under section 40 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, are being issued on villagers *en bloc* in the district of Dinajpur?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of the villages on which such notices have been served in the district;

(*ii*) the number of persons in the district on whom such notices have been served;

(*iii*) the number of those persons who paid war contributions on receipt of the notices; and

(*iv*) the amount of contribution paid by each of them?

(*d*) Is it a fact that no steps are taken if the persons served with such notices pay a war contribution?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the present stage of the proceedings?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) Notices under section 40 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act were issued only in the Sadar subdivision of the district.

(*b*) The notices were issued on the reports of Circle Officers and Presidents of Union Boards that the assessment was inequitable as the rate-payers were taxed below their capacity.

(*c*) (*i*) A list of the villages on which such notices were served is placed on the Table.

(*ii*) About 120 out of a total of about 100,000 assessees in the Sadar subdivision.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) The information cannot be obtained without a detailed examination of the receipt books of the war fund which it is regretted cannot be undertaken in view of the amount of time and labour it will involve.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) According to the report submitted by the District Magistrate on the 23rd September, 1941, three cases were disposed of and the others were under enquiry.

List of villages referred to in (c) (i) of unstarred question No. 40.

Ujani, Surul, Damolia, Kharsata, Indrain, Belun, Paloibari, Amritakhanda, Hatia, Gouri, Maligram, Jot Bahabal, Gossainpur, Rampur, Chakrampur, Uthrail, Muradpur, Gopinathpur, Ramchandrapur, Noonsahar, Kutair, Danur, Gahangachi, Mollapara, Kamalpur, Bontara, Salki, Manipur, Maheshpur, Panchkur, Parbatipur, Damodarpur, Bairagipara, Ramchandrapur, Balandar, Gopalpur, Bhandera, Mahachusa, Chausa, Dharampur, Godabari, Noorpur, Fatepur, Meragaon, Bemangaon, Choupukharia, Brojaballavapur, and Malam.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how in three cases referred to there has been an increase of rate?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am sorry I cannot say that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will it be possible for the Hon'ble Minister to say if such notices were issued at any time before this after the introduction of the reforms in this province?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I want notice.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he would look into the matter of service of notices under section 40 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act and payment of war contribution by people on whom the notices have been served?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I do not think that there is any connection.

Vacancy in the post of Chairman of Dinajpur District Board.

41. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health and Local Self-Government Department aware—

(*i*) that by the death of Khan Bahadur Mahatubuddin Ahmed, M.L.A., there has been a vacancy in the post of Chairman of the District Board of Dinajpur; and

(*ii*) that the works of the District Board are suffering for delay in filling up of the aforesaid vacancy?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the vacancy has not yet been filled up by election?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) There is no reason to suppose that the work of the District Board was in any way prejudiced, as the first Vice-Chairman exercised the functions of the Chairman under section 29(*4*) of the Local Self-Government Act.

(*b*) The vacancy has since been filled.

Marriage Registrar of Netrokona.

42. Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether any representation about some undesirable activities of the present Marriage

Registrar and Kazi of Netrokona was received by the District Registrar and Additional Collector, Mymensingh, in the second week of September, 1941?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Additional Subdivisional Officer of Netrokona held an enquiry into the allegations on the 25th September, 1941?

(*c*) If so, whether the said Subdivisional Officer has submitted his report of the enquiry?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a copy of the report of the Additional Subdivisional Officer?

(*e*) What action, if any, the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) to (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The report is of a confidential nature.

(*e*) The question is under consideration.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when the report in question was received, when its consideration began and when it is likely to be completed?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The report of the Subdivisional Officer was received in the beginning of January after I had assumed charge of office. The matter is under further investigation and I hope to be able to finish it soon.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in this particular matter both the Hindu and Muslim leaders of Netrokona sent a representation to the Government demanding the removal of the Registrar?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It was the petition that set the matter in motion, on which the investigation began.

Adjournment Motion regarding the internment of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, M.L.A.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I know your ruling, Sir, on my adjournment motion tabled about 7 days ago regarding the internment of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee? May we know how long the present Government and you, Sir, would keep us in deception in this matter? I want a definite ruling on the adjournment motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I shall give my ruling on the admissibility of your motion after the general discussion of the

Budget is over. I may tell you in this connection that I have considered this matter. I have consulted the Home Department, not only the Home Minister but other Ministers also and I shall try to give my ruling on your adjournment motion as soon as the general discussion of the Budget is over.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I submit, Sir, that the rules do not entitle the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker to hold up the adjournment on any ground whatsoever. I submit that the adjournment motion be considered now, if the Hon'ble Home Minister is not in a position to release Dr. Banerjee straightaway. I am not going to allow myself to be treated in this manner by the Home Minister or any other Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appreciate that the matter is very urgent——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit that you must act under the rules.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. I know that it concerns the rights and privileges of the members of this House. I may tell you, Dr. Sanyal, that you will be able to give a good account of yourself when the debate is allowed. But I am thinking very seriously about it. The ruling will be given just after the general discussion is over.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why do you postpone it, Sir? The rules do not entitle you to do so. We propose in all humility without any disrespect to the Chair or to the Cabinet as a whole that we do not want to continue the general discussion of the Budget unless this matter is settled. We want the House to be adjourned *sine die* or at least for a few minutes to consider this matter. We shall not allow the proceedings to be taken up in the manner in which it is being done today. Previously by holding out false hopes——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope, Dr. Sanyal, you will see me in my Chamber and I will discuss the matter with you.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you adjourn the House for at least 10 minutes?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can see me after one hour.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you direct also the Home Minister to see you?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already done so. Please join us.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We feel very strongly on this matter.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: We on this side of the House are used to the dilatory tactics of the Hon'ble Home Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Which Home Minister, past or present?

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: Sir, I refer to the Home Minister now on the Treasury Bench and not the ex-Home Minister with whom I have had the privilege of working at this end. Therefore, Sir, I agree with Dr. Sanyal that something should be done without any further delay. The Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq should not on some excuse or other be allowed to hold up the discussion of certain important matters.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All that I can tell you is that the matter does not rest with me. It is with the Hon'ble Speaker. I understand that he has left some instructions in the office, that he is considering this matter and that as soon as he comes back he will give his decision. I will think over the matter today and, if necessary, I will give my ruling tomorrow.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Then are we to understand, Sir, that you will not wait for the return of the Hon'ble Speaker and that you will give your decision after one hour today on this very important matter?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not going to wait for the Hon'ble Speaker. I will give my decision tomorrow if not today.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It was understood on Saturday that you would give your decision today. I do not know how long your decision will be delayed. I have been pressing for a decision for some time. I have got a copy of the proceedings with me in which you said that you would give your decision today.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTI : Mr. Deputy Speaker আমার মনে হয়, এই যে আজ যে সম্বন্ধে আমার বন্ধু Dr. Sanyal যে প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করেছেন, এটা অত্যন্ত গুরুতর প্রশ্ন। এ দিকে যারা গভর্ণমেণ্টের বলে বিবেচিত এবং তাদের মধ্যে অন্ততঃ আমি এটা মনে করছি, এ বিষয়ে অতি শীঘ্র একটা সিদ্ধান্ত হওয়া উচিত। আমার নিজের মনে সংশয় রয়েছে এবং আমরা যারা বিরোধী পক্ষে নই—এবং যাদের বহু ব্যক্তি এখানে আছেন—ঐ বিষয়টা অতি গুরুতর মনে করছি। বাস্তবিকই

এটা অত্যন্ত গুরুতর বিষয়। Mr. Speaker যখন চলে যান, তিনি বলেছিলেন যে তিনি নিজেই এ সম্বন্ধে তাঁর (decision) সিদ্ধান্ত দেবেন। তিনি তা ভুলে গিয়ে থাকবেন। আমার মনে হয় যে মুহূর্ত্তে আপনি Speaker এর পদ গ্রহণ করেছিলেন, তখনই আপনার এ বিষয়ে সর্ব্বাগ্রে সিদ্ধান্তে আসা উচিত ছিল। এবং আজ ৪।৫ দিন গত হয়েছে। আমাদের একজন সদস্য-বন্ধু—তিনি কারাপ্রাচীরের অন্তরালে আছেন। আমার নিজের কারা প্রাচীরের অভিজ্ঞতা বার বার হয়েছে—আমি জানি কারাগার কী। সেই জন্য এ বিষয়ে আমি মনে করি যে অনতিবিলম্বে একটা সিদ্ধান্ত করা উচিত এবং মন্ত্রিসভার এ বিষয়ে কি মনোভাব তা আমাদের জানান উচিত এবং সেই হিসাবে, এ বিষয়ে আমাদের ভবিষ্যৎ কর্ম্মপদ্ধতি সম্বন্ধে আমরা সজাগ ও সচেতন হতে পারব।

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

[The General Discussion of the Budget was then resumed.]

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, I regret I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister on the Budget he has presented before this House. If this Budget is disappointing his Budget speech is barren The Hon'ble Finance Minister has placed a deficit Budget with a threat of the War being at our door, and the Hon'ble Finance Minister has produced a War Budget allowing nation-saving to take the place of nation-building. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has begun with a bogey of air attack by the enemy and deals with a scheme of Civil Defence of considerable magnitude but at the same time asking us to agree that so long as the present emergency continues there can be no diversion of the resources of the province to purposes that can wait. If the Hon'ble Minister think that in and around Calcutta and other vulnerable areas live the whole population of Bengal and if he thinks that by means of baffle walls or slit trenches here and there he can save the people of Bengal I have no quarrel with him. If he has followed the principle as enunciated in his Budget Speech, then he should not call it the Budget for Bengal as a whole. It is a Budget for the towns and townspeople.

Getting into the Cabinet by questionable means after trying for about five years the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his zeal and enthusiasm ought not to have forgotten that Bengal lives in villages and if the villages can be saved Bengal will be saved too. No doubt we must take protective measures against air raids of the enemy for our brethern living in vulnerable areas but at the same time we must not forget the urgent needs of the province as a whole.

If the Hon'ble Minister has forgotten, let me remind him that the real problem of the province is to get two square meals a day for its

people, to save them from the jaws of death by preventing the preventible diseases and when they are alive to give them some education so that they may grow and develop into manhood.

This Ministry styles itself and claims to be a progressive Ministry but at the same time it leaves the people where they are, asking them to wait and to bid adieu for a time—short or long as Providence may ordain.

If it is the duty of any civilised Government to take Civil Defence measures against air raid over townspeople, it is also its duty to protect the villagers from starvation and fell diseases. Malaria, kala-azar and other preventible fell diseases have extended to villages of many districts of East Bengal. The poor, half-starved and ill-clad cultivators are falling easy victims to these diseases. The progressive Ministers will ask us to wait for better days while they will not take one farthing less than their much criticised high salary and they will also have to make provision for three-fourths of a lakh for Parliamentary Secretaryships for keeping the party and the Ministry intact. What matters if the people die of starvation but the Ministry must go on. But this will not do for long. Unless they take up schemes for improvement of agriculture and industry, resuscitation of dead and dying rivers, credit and marketing facilities for the agriculturists and for solving the problem of unemployment of the landless population, the Ministry will be charged with criminal neglect of duty.

When the individual grants will come up before the House the details will be discussed but I shall offer general remarks over some of the items.

All channels of credit supply in the rural area having been dried up, the poor agriculturists cannot find out money in time even to carry on their cultivation. Needy middle-class people are starving for want of credit facilities. As a result sale deeds of lands are on the abnormal increase. Agriculturists and middle-class people are becoming landless beggars day by day. Is it not the duty of every civilised Government to come to the rescue of the needy people at such a time? What has this so-called progressive Government done? It takes the credit of a saving by not starting the five Land Mortgage Banks for which money was budgeted this year. It has also made provision of Rs. 15,35,000 for advances to cultivators as against the provision of Rs. 1,16,33,000 in the revised Budget of the current year. What a nice sense of responsibility of the progressive Ministry!

In the matter of industrial development the Ministry is no less callous. They ought to have taken advantage of this war emergency for developing cottage and other industries. Herein also the Ministry has failed to spend Rs. 3,00,000 which was budgeted for by the last Ministry.

The agricultural Budget for the next year is less than the revised Budget by 4 lakhs. What more can be expected from the Cabinet whose members are more eager for keeping the Ministry than to do any good thing for the agriculturists? The Cabinet and their Whips or Parliamentary Secretaries as they are constituted mostly come from a class having vested interest. The members of the Cabinet were too busy in their crusade against the Muslim Leaguers and could not make time to utilise the budgeted amount for establishment of new Debt Settlement Boards to save the debtors from the jaws of the *mahajans*. Sadar hospitals could not be improved though there was a provision for them. Though the menace of malaria and kala-azar is daily on the increase the usual grant for quinine, etc., could not be increased. Government ought to have established one dispensary in each union.

With regard to Education the less said the better. The Secondary Education Bill has already been buried but no provision has been made for grants to District School Boards for construction of school houses and supplying furniture and equipments. From want of suitable houses and other requirements the majority of the primary schools are suffering and the money now spent cannot produce satisfactory result. There must be a well thought-out scheme for this to be taken up at once. In the matter of Secondary Education, Madrassahs should suffer but Chakhar must have its full quota. In short, Agriculture, Public Health, Medical, Industry, Education, credit facilities for the needy and all other such nation-building departments must wait for a better day but the Hon'ble Mr. Huq's grant to Chakhar College and pay for Parliamentary Secretaries cannot wait. So the Hon'ble the Finance Minister advises us for saving the nation. I should tell the Hon'ble Dr. Mookerjee that this sort of selfishness will not long be tolerated by the people of Bengal

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to join in the chorus of congratulations for the Finance Minister whose abilities are undoubtedly known to everyone in Bengal, nay, the whole of India. I would rather sympathise with him for he is struggling against some limitations under which he has had to accept the Ministry. He is, I think, more conscious than anybody else about the period of crisis and abnormality when he has become the Finance Minister.

In the printed Budget Speech he has dealt with this subject and in the addendum he has been more outspoken, written as it was after the fall of Singapore. He says, "Let us emphasize that the power of shaping and administering national policy in time of war must be handed over to the Indians, that the Indian deadlock must be solved with the least possible delay.....". These are some of the choice expressions expressed by him and every Indian wholeheartedly approves

of them. I also fully endorse his passionate appeal to the British Prime Minister to immediately remove the serious obstacles which are standing in the way of India's pursuing her own national policy and defending its hearth and home, both actively and passively, against any foreign aggression and to maintain internal peace and security.

But the Prime Minister is not likely to pay more attention to the appeal of the Finance Minister than he has paid so far to the appeals of other national leaders of India, either of the Congress or of the Muslim League or of the Hindu Mahasabha or of non-party leaders or even of the leaders of the Labour Party in England. Due to public pressure Mr. Churchill has dropped Lord Beaverbrook and taken in Sir Stafford Cripps in the War Cabinet, but Mr. Amery still continues and so continues the Indian policy of the Prime Minister, even after the fall of Singapore and the blocking of the Burma Road. There is now a talk of Mr. Amery going out but the policy followed so far and so long is still likely to be continued even after his exit, if it ever takes place. The Prime Minister had even the impudence to exclude India from the Atlantic Charter.

But what about the Bengal Ministry and of the Premier of Bengal and the Cabinet as a whole? What lines have they taken? It is not enough for them to say that they have been in office only for two months. They should have declared their policy immediately after they took office. That has been a serious omission on their part. They may take time to undo the wrongs done before, but why are they conniving at or tolerating new oppressions? Daily more and more persons are being externed or interned who have influence on the masses of people on the plea of Defence of India. Workers of jute mills wanted a dearness allowance and struck work, and Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, a member of this House, is now interned in that connection. Another valuable colleague of mine has also been interned for agitating on behalf of the workers for a dearness allowance and I have only narrowly escaped arrest. Any activity amongst the workers, either to give them legal protection or even for municipal election is liable to come under the clutches of the Defence of India Rules. These are not isolated instances. Anyone who cares to look at the newspapers will find such instances every morning. During the time of Sir Nazimuddin, the ex-Home Minister, we have found him to be guided blindly by the Secretariat and we have to declare here most unfortunately that we find practically no improvement even now. Either the Cabinet do not care or they are helpless. Only if the Ministry vigorously intervene in these matters and do not allow people who have influence over the masses to be put into prison, people will have confidence to move freely and boldly face the acute situation that is fast approaching.

The problem of release of political prisoners and detenus has not been at all tackled. Paying allowances to the detenus is the absolute

minimum that the Ministry can do, but we see no indication about this either in the Budget or anywhere else. Not only Mr. Churchill is failing but I am afraid the new Ministry of Bengal is also failing in its duty to the people. Mr. Churchill is failing in not giving India the freedom to defend herself and the Bengal Ministry is failing in not freeing the people of Bengal who can really defend or save the Bengalee nation.

The second matter about which I wish to emphasise is the labour policy. In the last Ministry the Labour Minister was perhaps the main cause of its downfall. In this there is still no one given this important portfolio. Education and Labour portfolios are two important portfolios and it requires a superman to tackle both these problems. The result is that there is no labour policy visible. In modern wars the workers are almost as important as actual combatants and what has been done for their protection? I am glad that the Finance Minister has termed his Budget as nation-saving. Nation can be saved by army, navy and air force, but unfortunately that is beyond the scope of the Finance Minister and our scope also.

The prices are soaring and price control is only in name. The sales tax is further aggravating the position, but there is no indication that it would be reviewed or abolished. This is a serious shortcoming in the Budget Also the want of any policy for effective price control is another serious shortcoming. The index of cost of living is well over 150. So all those whose wages are below Rs. 100 per month should at least get 8 annas in the rupee if they have to maintain their old standard which was by no means very high. And if the workers and the wage-earners are to suffer from this malnutrition the nation-saving cry is really a cruel joke. The Bengal Government have not sanctioned even 25 per cent. dearness allowance which is overdue for more than a year. They have not even paid what the Railways have done, and when we have to face the Railway Board they often have the joke on us that the popular Ministers have not done anything even as much as they have done. That is a state of affairs which ought to be remedied as early as possible. The Railways have paid Rs. 4-8 to all those who are getting upto Rs. 70 per month, but the Government of Bengal have paid at most Re. 1 per head. The Government should be the model in this respect and if the nation is really to be saved, let the Government save the menials of this Assembly in the first instance and the other workers who are in their charge and then only the other employers as in jute mills, iron factories and other factories will follow. Unless the Government move in the matter with what face can they ask the other employers to give dearness allowance or to protect the workers which is the avowed object of the Finance Minister. Want of a policy in this respect is deplorable.

Let us now take the defensive arrangement. About four crores of rupees are to be spent on this. It is a good start and I must congratulate the Finance Minister on this, but I do not see why the whole amount should not be obtained from the Central Government. At least attempts should be made to get the whole amount and more from the Central Government. If England, Russia, France, Norway, Greece and every other country that has joined this war got loans from other countries, specially from America for defence, why should not India arrange for a loan and spend amounts like this which have been spent on A. R. P. so that the amount of 4 crores may not be spent on this item from the meagre funds of the province.

Slit trenches are apologies for defence. Concrete shelters or other kinds of shelters must be built. One has to trust on luck and luck only to escape from injury from bombing and therefore to call all these slit trenches shelter is ridiculous. As no bomb-proof shelters are available all persons not necessary for essential services or for industrial production should be removed from industrial centres like Calcutta, Howrah, etc. No attempt so far has been made in this respect. This will minimise the problem of food, water-supply, gas, electricity and transport, as a matter of fact all other problems that the Ministry will have to face. Moreover, the new industries that have been started should be scattered in different places as has been done by Russia and the same principle should be followed if the newly started industries are to be saved from bombing which is coming.

Government are not also actively organising evacuation of even women and children and for this also they will have to share the guilt of the massacre of the innocents when the bombing will really come.

I do not want to criticise the ordinary details now as the Finance Minister had no adequate time to formulate his policy; but I do hope that when he gets time he will really formulate his policy and will not hesitate to alter the Budget provisions that he has presented before us.

The problem of political prisoners and detenus and price control and dearness allowance are some of the most urgent matters and I hope the Finance Minister and the Cabinet as a whole will give due attention to this subject.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are passing through an international crisis and this is the time when the Bengal Cabinet should rise up to the occasion and show to the world that they can also formulate proposals and in the budget speech the Finance Minister has given indication that he was not looking at the problems only from the Bengal point of view. And as he has given indication in the Budget Speech, I hope he will rise up to the occasion and really do what he has promised to do and try to save the nation by all measures that is within his powers.

Mr. D. GLADDING: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Leader of our Party will be speaking at a later stage, but I may say at once that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has presented the House with a statement of the financial position which we find admirably clear, and with Budget proposals which command in general our unanimous approval. He has made the claims of Civil Defence the key-note of his Budget. In doing this he has taken the only correct course, and in the pursuit of that course the new Government will have the unstinted support of this Party. The late Government was sound in its attitude to emergencies created by the War and gave us many good things including industrial peace, which oiled the wheels of war production, and new sources of revenue which are now standing us in good stead. The new Ministry, whose assumption of office was so quickly followed by the outbreak of war in the Pacific, has already given evidence in several ways that it makes its responsibilities for Civil Defence a first charge upon its time, and this Budget assures us further that they know their job and intend to do it.

The financial position revealed by the revised estimates for 1941-42 is distinctly better than we thought it would be. Though expenditure greatly exceeded the original estimate, receipts exceeded the original estimate by an even greater amount. While the war is to be blamed for the greater part of the increased expenditure, it is also to be thanked for the greater part of the increased receipts, which came in the form of income-tax as a result of the war's stimulating effect upon industry. In other words, the Civil Defence measures of 1941-42 were largely financed by the war itself as opposed to being a drain *in toto* upon the normal revenues of the province. I should like to stress this point. Some members of the House seem to have overlooked it.

The war's contribution through the avenue of income-tax is likely to be greater still in 1942-43; but the growth of expenditure on Civil Defence measures will, this time, very greatly exceed the growth of the war's contribution to the exchequer. It was only correct that the Centre should give Bengal special relief as regards the division of Civil Defence expenditure between the Centre and the Provinces. She is experiencing, unlike other provinces, a considerable loss of revenue under "Jute Export Duty" as a direct consequence of the war. She is nearer the new firing line than the other major provinces, and she is warden of a special block of the industries engaged in India on the manufacture of the implements and material of war. Even so, special terms for a particular province, however good the case, are not easy to obtain, and we congratulate the Bengal Government on a distinctly good piece of work. We do not know whether the Bengal Government in this case means the present Ministry or the last one, but we rather think that it must mean both of them!

In budgeting for his Revenue Receipts and his expenditure on Civil Defence the Finance Minister has taken the only line that makes estimation possible, by assuming generally that trade conditions will not be seriously disorganised, and life and property not seriously damaged, by air raids or other hostile activities; and we think that his estimate of receipts, on this assumption, is generally sound. The possibility, however, that either or both of these things may happen cannot be ruled out of account and, while it has not been budgeted for, we have no doubt that the Finance Minister has it anxiously in mind. He will be the first to acknowledge that, if the position deteriorates, it will become the duty of himself and his colleagues to sacrifice "nation-building" to "nation-saving" even more than it has been sacrificed in this Budget, eliminating waste, and eliminating or reducing expenditure which, however beneficial by ordinary tests, can be made to wait. If he would like to know what kind of expenditure we have in mind, I would cite as examples the Debt Settlement Boards, Loans to Agriculturists, much of Civil Works, and such things as the proposed Department of Fisheries.

If the position does *not* deteriorate, and all goes according to estimate, we shall have a deficit on revenue account at the end of 1942-43 amounting to 1 crore and 5 lakhs and, with a closing balance of only 79 lakhs, shall be owing the Centre 1 crore and 80 lakhs, free of interest, on account of advances to help us pay our share of Civil Defence expenditure. This means that we shall be definitely in worse case than we are at the moment. But we shall have assets, in the form of loans to cultivators and of securities outside the Famine Insurance Fund, amounting to 2 crores and 80 lakhs. We should therefore be more than solvent; and I agree with the Finance Minister that, on these figures, the position is not unsound. But there are two points having some bearing on this which I should like to mention before I resume my seat. We should be grateful if the Finance Minister would reply to them.

(1) The issue of Treasury Bills both actual in 1941-42 and prospective in 1942-43, is reaching very big dimensions; and, rightly or wrongly, we link these in our mind with the grant of loans to agriculturists. Now, the proper function of Treasury Bills, as we understand them, is to provide purely temporary accommodation for ways and means purposes only, namely, to raise very short-term loans to fill the gaps that occur at intervals between the inflow of revenue and the outflow of revenue expenditure. But there appears to be nowadays no week in the year in which the exchequer has not got a considerable block of Treasury Bills outstanding against it. In other words, we seem to have a permanent floating debt in the form of Treasury Bills, and are running the risk of being short of ways and means even when the inflow of revenue is at its peak. This is surely very unorthodox?

Would the Finance Minister tell us whether he shares this view and, if so, whether he proposes to do anything about it?

(2) In the second place, we have misgivings about the greater granting of loans to cultivators nowadays. It seems not to be entirely explainable in terms of greater distress than hitherto, and looks suspiciously like the State setting up as a permanent money-lender to the agricultural classes. However that may be, we should like some assurance that policy as regards recovery of these loans will be very strict. And, as a means of enabling the House to follow recoveries more closely, could the Finance Minister arrange to give us a table of some kind in the Red Book showing not merely how much is collected but also how much was due to be collected in a given year; and to attach to it a statement explaining any diffeernces between the two figures? We feel sure that this is a matter on which a very close watch ought to be kept both by Government and by the Legislature. At the end of 1942-43 the outstandings, according to the estimates, will amount to 2 crores and 26 lakhs, and the Finance Minister has called this an asset of 2 crores and 26 lakhs. It is important that they should be assets in fact, and not merely on paper.

And now, Sir, I have finished. I think I have said enough to indicate our general attitude to this Budget. And I will repeat what I expressed at the beginning. We approve the dominant purpose of the Budget and wish the Ministry all good fortunte in their pursuit of it.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, in initiating the Budget discussion last year I made the following comment on the estimates for 1941-42:—

> "What is that precious texture spun out, again, of miscalculations and make-believes? Well, next year in comparison with the revised figures of the current year our Customs receipts will be better by only 5 lakhs because shipping facilities, according to the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy, will increase. Income-tax will yield only a trifle of 5 lakhs more because Sir Andrew Clow is going to collect from the railways a surplus of 14 instead of 8 crores during the current year and estimates—an original estimate—to collect nearly a surplus of 12 crores in the next. Excise will yield not a rupee better apparently, because during past five years receipts under this head have been increasing by leaps and bounds and they promise to increase by 10 lakhs in the current year alone owing to the introduction of a cheaper variety of country liquor and to the larger supply of obnoxious drugs. Such are the paradoxes of the situation in which all that our Finance Minister can hope for is an

increase of a few lakhs only on the receipt side, viz., 1,403 lakhs in place of the revised total of 1,382 for the current year; and this we are given to understand will fall short of the expenditure programme of 1,537 lakhs by 134 lakhs —a liberally anticipated deficit awaiting to be covered by and furnishing the great reason for the Finance Sales Tax".

Friends of the previous Finance Minister might have considered my comments on that day as much too caustic, if not prejudiced, but what do we find to-day when the estimates for 1941-42 stand revised. Well, "the shipping facilities" have so much increased according to the expectation of Mr. Suhrawardy that customs, instead of yielding 5 lakhs more than the revised estimate of the last year, will yield only Rs. 15 lakhs less. Income-tax, which, as I dared to point out, was grossly underestimated instead of yielding 5 lakhs more according to the late Finance Minister is expected to yield Rs. 48 lakhs more. Excise receipts refusing to remain stationary will advance by Rs. 7 lakhs. On the whole so close were the estimates of the *sabjánta* Finance Minister of the late Government that the total receipts for 1941-42 will be better by the trifle of Rs. 90 lakhs excluding altogether the 35 lakhs of new money derived from the sales tax. The estimated deficit of Rs. 134 lakhs, of which much was made as an urgent reason for new taxation, was therefore in the main a figment of imagination so far as the scheduled estimate of expenditure was concerned. There was another and more potent reason given for the taxation measure, *viz.*, expansion of the nation-building activities which could not wait in the opinion of the then Finance Minister till after the conclusion of the war. That object has certainly been gained when we find that almost by the same amount that the new tax is likely to yield in the current year, *viz.*, 35 lakhs, the original estimates for Education, Medical, Public Health, Industries, Irrigation, Civil Works have been revised down, viz., Education by 4, Medical by 2·23, Public Health by 8·77, Industries by 3, Irrigation by 2·35 and Civil Works by 13·76, all told 34 lakhs! Let us not think, however, that general retrenchment has been the order of the day; for Police and Jails have been allowed unauthorised extra expenditure to the tune of about Rs. 21 lakhs in the current year and will have as much in the next. So none of the objectives of the new taxation measure set out with the usual fanfare by the erstwhile Muslim League Minister of Finance was left unfulfilled during his charge! The story of a deficit of Rs. 134 lakhs on the basis of the scheduled expenditure proved a canard and almost all the nation-building departments suffered substantial cuts while Jail and Police got Rs. 21 lakhs behind the back of the Legislature.

Although all the declared objectives of the Sales Tax Act have been thus falsified by events, yet the Act, it may be said, is going to stand

us in good stead in an unkind world. It has enabled Bengal, we may be told, to organise her Civil Defence which is undoubtedly the need of the hour and going to be the main feature of her new Budget. But then the fact cannot be overlooked that all of the provinces in India Bengal stands in the singularly unfortunate position in which she has to organise such defence on the basis of fresh taxation notwithstanding the contribution from the Centre.

The contribution, again, that the Centre has agreed to make, however large it may be, does not appear to be based on any recognition of the peculiar position and the difficulties of this great province. The large contribution that revenues raised in Bengal make to the Central Budget and which is the measure of her denial to her own sons, and the loss that the Revenue Distribution order of March, 1940, delinking the Railway revenue from the income-tax, has inflicted on her at a time when the Railway Budget is producing very large surplus year after year, continue to be unrecognised even in her deepening crisis. The arrangements about the allocation for Civil Defence that have been arrived at, may be satisfactory from the point of view of the more fortunate provinces that have consistently made their hay under the sunshine of the Meston or the Neimeyer Award, but Bengal in her unrelieved misfortune and unexpected crisis will surely demand for special treatment, and I have every hope her new Finance Minister will not fail to voice that legitimate demand before the Central authorities however unwilling to hear or ungenerous to respond they may be.

Apart from extraordinary expenditure which is the most remarkable provision of the Budget before us, the other parts of the estimates for the coming year call for little comment. The rest of the Budget is almost a repetition of the last Budget, the total expenditure amounting only to 20 lakhs more than the total of the original provisions for the current year (15·50 crores against 15·30 crores). Yet two of the features of the new Budget which appear to be the relics of old and which definitely mark it out as the last of Suhrawardy issues rather than as the first born of Dr. Mookerjee's financial genius cannot but strike even a casual observer who will compare the Budget for the next year with the Budget that was presented in last February. The first is the extra provisions of Rs. 10¾ lakhs under head "Jail" and of 10¼ lakhs under head "Police" and the second is the very different treatment that has been accorded to the nation-building departments. These features let us hope will not recur in the future. No one knows more than the Chief Minister who has taken up the administration of these departments that a Government that will not make police and the jails the principal instruments of its policy is what repressed Bengal anxiously demands. And the task of a popular Government in Bengal is to make the greatest of our spending departments more efficient than

pampered and to keep less people in jail than there are now within it as a result of the blundering and repressive policy of bureaucratic administrations, past or present.

In conclusion I would congratulate Dr. Mookerjee for voicing the demand of the people of Bengal, nay of the whole country, for immediate declaration of a free constitution for India. Give us a free country to fight for must be the cry of every true-born Indian and every Government that proposes to represent the people. At any rate, we do not want such Government of India by Indians advertised by His Grace the Duke of Devonshire under which, as Sir N. N. Sarkar has remarked, men like Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose could be interned without even the Indian Members of the Governor-General's Council having an access to the alleged papers against them nor under which India can be ruled any longer by the India Office and its agents as Sir Tej Bahadur has recently pointed out.

Maulana MOHAMMAD MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI : ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! ১৯৪২-৪৩ সালের বাজেট সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলার পূর্ব্বে, বাংলার নবগঠিত বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভার গঠননীতি ও লক্ষ্য বিষয়ে নিজের ও দেশবাসীর মনোভাব কি তাহা ব্যক্ত করা আবশ্যক মনে করিতেছি। দেশের যাঁরা চিন্তাশীল ও দূরদর্শী, যাঁরা দেশের মুক্তি ও শান্তিকামী তাঁহারা বহুকাল হইতে দেশের স্থায়ী ও চরম মঙ্গল সাধনকল্পে, যে উপায় ও কর্ম্মপন্থা কামনা করিয়া আসিতেছিলেন এবং যাহা এ যাবৎ স্বপ্ন বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইতেছিল, বাংলার কৃতী সন্তান মৌলভী এ. কে. ফজলুল হক তাহা বাস্তবে পরিণত করিতে পারিয়াছেন; অর্থাৎ বাংলার বিভিন্ন মতের ও সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতিনিধিস্থানীয় ব্যক্তিবর্গকে লইয়া তিনি বাংলায় যে মন্ত্রিসভা গঠন করিয়াছেন তাহা সমগ্র ভারতের পক্ষে এক আদর্শ স্থানীয়। ইহা যে সর্ব্বপ্রথম বাংলায় সম্ভবপর হইয়াছে ইহা আমাদের গৌরবের বিষয়। এই মন্ত্রিদলে আছেন, কংগ্রেস ফরওয়ার্ড ব্লক্, কৃষক-প্রজা, হিন্দু মহাসভা, হিন্দু জাতীয় দল, অনগ্রসর জাতির প্রতিনিধিবর্গ; আর আছে ইহাতে অফিসিয়াল কংগ্রেস, এ্যাংলো ইণ্ডিয়ান ও ইউরোপীয় দলের সমর্থন; সর্ব্বোপরি বাংলার প্রাদেশিক মোসলেম লীগের অধিকাংশ সদস্যের সহযোগিতা (cries of "না, না") ও আন্তরিক সহানুভূতির কল্যাণে ইহা সম্ভব হইয়াছে (cheers). ইহাতে নাই কেবল দেশের একদল মুষ্টিমেয় লোক, যাঁহাদের আর্থিক স্বার্থে আঘাত লাগিয়াছে; যাহাদের আড়াই হাজারী ও ৩০ হাজারী স্বার্থে আঘাত লাগিয়াছে; তাহাদের প্রতি আমরা সহানুভূতি প্রকাশ করিতেছি। খোদাতাআলা তাহাদের হৃদয়ে শান্তিধারা বর্ষণ করুন।

আমরা আশা করি,—এই মিলিত মন্ত্রিসভার চেষ্টাতে দেশের সাম্প্রদায়িক বিদ্বেষ দূর হইবে, সাম্য, মৈত্রী ও স্বাধীনতার পবিত্রভাব দেশবাসীর অন্তরে উদ্দীপিত হইয়া উঠিবে। যাহা হউক, নবগঠিত মন্ত্রিসভার সদস্যবর্গকে এই প্রথম সম্মেলনের সুযোগে সাদর সম্ভাষণ জ্ঞাপন করিতেছি।

মাননীয় অর্থসচিব সঙ্কীর্ণ সময়ে, এই রণ হুঙ্কারের বিভীষিকাপূর্ণ আবহাওয়ার মধ্যে যে বাজেট প্রস্তুত করিয়াছেন, তজ্জন্য তাঁহার প্রশংসা না করিয়া থাকা যায় না। তিনি যে লীগ আমলের অর্থসচিবের অনুকরণে ট্যাক্স স্থাপনপূর্ব্বক দেশবাসীর রক্ত-শোষণের ভবিষ্যদ্বাণী করেন নাই, ইহাই বড় কথা। তবে শেষ পর্য্যন্ত রক্ষা পাইলেই নিস্তার!

প্রত্যেক বস্তুর ভাল মন্দ দুইটা দিক আছে। বাজেটে ভালর দিকটা দেখিলাম,—গত বৎসরের তুলনায় আগামী বৎসর শিক্ষার খাতে ৬ লক্ষ ৩১ হাজার, জনস্বাস্থ্যের জন্য ৫ লক্ষ ৫০ হাজার, শিল্প (সিনকোনা) খাতে ৪ লক্ষ ৩১ হাজার টাকা অধিক ব্যয়িত হইবে। এতদ্ব্যতীত ভারতের জরুরী অবস্থাতে জনরক্ষার খাতে প্রায় ৪ কোটি টাকা, ঋণ সালিশী বোর্ডের জন্য ৩ লক্ষ ৫০ হাজার টাকা অধিক ব্যয়িত হইবে। প্রাইমারী শিক্ষাকল্পে অতিরিক্ত ৫ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে ইহা বিশেষ উল্লেখযোগ্য বিষয় (A voice : গেল বারেও ছিল এটা)। অনুন্নত শ্রেণীর লোকদের মধ্যে শিক্ষা বিস্তারকল্পে দেড় লক্ষ টাকা, প্রাইমারী ট্রেণিংএর জন্য ৯২ হাজার টাকা ব্যয়বরাদ্দ করা কম প্রশংসার বিষয় নহে। জনস্বাস্থ্য বিভাগে মফঃস্বলে জল-সরবরাহের জন্য দশ লক্ষ টাকা, ফ্রি কুই-নাইন বিতরণের জন্য ৬ লক্ষ টাকা, ম্যালেরিয়া নিবারণের জন্য আড়াই লক্ষ টাকা, যক্ষ্মা নিবারণকল্পে অর্দ্ধ লক্ষ টাকা, যাদবপুর যক্ষ্মা হাস্পাতালের জন্য ৩৫ হাজার টাকার ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ বাজেটের উল্লেখযোগ্য বিষয়।

কৃষি বিভাগের উন্নতির প্রতি দৃষ্টিপাত করা হয় নাই। পূর্ব্ব বৎসরের তুলনায় ব্যয় ৪ লক্ষ হ্রাস করা হইয়াছে। এই বিভাগটা চিরকালই অভিশপ্ত বিভাগ বলিয়া গণ্য হইয়া আসিতেছে। প্রত্যেক বৎসর কৃষি ও কৃষকের নামে অর্দ্ধ কোটির অধিক অর্থ ব্যয় করা হইতেছে। কিন্তু বাস্তবে কৃষক ও কৃষির জন্য আদৌ কোন অর্থ ব্যয় করা হয় না। কতকগুলি কর্ম্মচারী পোষণের নাম কৃষি ও কৃষকের সাহায্য নহে। কৃষি-স্কুলে যাহারা শিক্ষাপ্রাপ্ত হইয়া মফঃস্বলে ডিমনষ্ট্রেটর নামে ঘুরিয়া বেড়ায়, কৃষি বিষয়ে তাহাদের কোন অভিজ্ঞতা নাই। তাহাদের উপদেশ শুনিয়া কৃষকগণের কোন ফল হয় না। পরন্তু তাদের পুস্তকগত জ্ঞানানুযায়ী উপদেশের দ্বারা অনেক ক্ষেত্রে মারাত্মক ফল ফলিতে দেখা যায়। তাঁহারা বিলাতী সার ব্যবহারের জন্য যে উপদেশ দেন তাহা ক্রয় করার ক্ষমতা কৃষকদের নাই। অনাবৃষ্টির সময় কৃষিকার্য্যের সহায়তাকল্পে খাল-খনন, পাম্প মেশিনের সাহায্যে জল-সরবরাহের কোন পন্থা অবলম্বন করা হয় নাই, বীজ supply এর কোন উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। এই বিভাগের দ্বারা বাঙলার কৃষি ও কৃষক-কুলের কোন উপকারই হয় না। এই বিভাগের প্রতি মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকৃষ্ট হওয়া একান্ত আবশ্যক। আমার মতে এই বিভাগটা সম্পূর্ণরূপে তুলিয়া দিয়া এই বিভাগের অর্দ্ধেক টাকা খাল-খনন, ইঁদারা খননকার্য্যে এবং অবশিষ্ট অর্দ্ধেক টাকা সামান্য সুদে কৃষককুলকে ঋণ দান করিলে স্থায়ীভাবে দুর্ভিক্ষ ও দেশের দুর্দ্দশা কাটিয়া যাইতে পারে।

পুলিশের ব্যয় হ্রাসের জন্য বহুদিন হইতেই আলোচনা চলিতেছে, কিন্তু দিন দিন ইহা বর্দ্ধিত হওয়া ছাড়া এ যাবৎ কমে নাই। বর্ত্তমান বাজেটেও কাগজে-কলমে ২ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় হ্রাস করা হইয়াছে বটে; ইহা মন্দের ভাল, তবে কার্য্যক্ষেত্রে হ্রাস

হইবে কিনা বলিতে পারি না। সাধারণ শাসন বিভাগের ব্যয় কিছুই হ্রাস করা হয় নাই বরং ২ লক্ষ টাকা বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে, ইহা দেশবাসী পছন্দ করে না। এই শাসন বিভাগের, ব্যয় হ্রাস করা বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভার প্রধান কার্য্য হওয়া উচিত।

এই বাজেটের সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা উল্লেখযোগ্য বিষয় ও বৈশিষ্ট্য হইল দেশের বিভিন্ন সম্প্রদায়ের মধ্যে একতা ও সম্প্রীতি স্থাপনকল্পে এক লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়বরাদ্দ। আমাদের মতে ইহাই বর্ত্তমানে দেশের প্রধান কার্য্য। অবিলম্বে ইহাতে হস্তক্ষেপ করা আবশ্যক। দেশে এক দল লোক আছে, যাহারা হিন্দু মোসলেম সম্প্রীতি স্থাপনের নামে অশান্তি অনুভব করিয়া থাকে (Cries of "hear, hear")। তারা চায় এই দুই দলে চির বিরোধ বিরাজমান থাকুক, দাসত্বের বন্ধন আরও দৃঢ়তর ও স্থায়ী হউক। তাহারা মুক্তি ও শান্তির নামে আৎকাইয়া উঠে। এই সকল দয়ার পাত্রদের উপেক্ষা করিয়া কঠোর পরিশ্রমের সহিত সাধনায় অগ্রসর হইলে সিদ্ধিলাভ অবশ্যম্ভাবী। তবে এই বিরাট ও মহৎ কার্য্য সম্পাদনের জন্য প্রচুর অর্থের প্রয়োজন। প্রত্যেক জেলা হইতে একতার নামে সংবাদপত্র ও পুস্তিকাদি প্রচার ও উদার হৃদয় প্রচারক নিয়োগ, গ্রামে গ্রামে পাঠাগার স্থাপনপূর্ব্বক উপদেশমূলক literature বিতরণ ও সাময়িক পত্রিকা ইত্যাদির প্রচার একান্ত আবশ্যক।

এই বলিয়া আমি আসন গ্রহণ করিতেছি।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I remind you that it is now more than one hour when you promised you would look into the question? Would you keep your promise now?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I remember it, and I will do it very soon.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister disclosed an extraordinary degree of complacency which forms the background of his Budget this year. In his anti-Singapore peroration he has asked all sections of this House to give the new Ministry a chance to serve the real needs of the province. He must have done so with an uneasy conscience and he must have been conscious that his Budget is out of touch with the reality. The fall of Singapore, however, had laid bare before him the critical situation in all its true perspective. We in this section of the House wholeheartedly associate with the outlook so ably presented by him in the type-written addendum to his financial statement. He has rightly pointed out that the urgent problems of national defence and economic stability must be solved immediately to save Bengal. We trust that the addendum will not prove to be a mere sugar-coating of words and the Ministry will endeavour efficiently to implement what is stated therein. It is then and then only that he can be assured of the co-operation he asks for and which he so badly needs.

Sir, the Finance Minister has put nation-saving in the forefront and nation-building behind. An estimate of over four crores of rupees is provided for civil defence out of which Bengal has to contribute about a crore and a quarter. But may I ask the Finance Minister if, before he agreed to this distribution between the Province and the Centre, he ascertained as to what has been provided for this Province of Bengal by way of defence out of the 50 crores of rupees that the Central Government annually took for the purpose of defence of India. May I also ask if he ascertained what resistance and how much resistance by air, sea or land is possible so that he could co-ordinate his civil defence according to the Military Defence that is available? There is no room any longer for any bluff. The people of Bengal standing in the danger zone are enquiring and insisting upon a correct reply. Are there adequate arrangements for proper defence equipped with modern weapons of warfare and if that is not available, did he find out whether it would be wise to expose the armless, defenceless and helpless population of Bengal to wanton death, destruction and dismemberment of limbs and body or would it be wise, if no military defence was available, to declare Calcutta an open city. If military defence against attacks by air, sea or land is wholly inadequate, the Budget must needs provide mainly for evacuation of children and women and afterwards men to safer areas. Perhaps it would be necessary to provide more burial grounds and cremations and more coroners and deputy coroners to view the bodies before disposal. I think that is what should be done much more than providing for the A.R.P. establishment. We are painfully aware that mercenary establishments of A.R.P. services completely break down in the hour of trial as happened in Rangoon. Moreover, we know that even in England the A.R.P. establishment in the hands of Government did not work satisfactorily and the arrangements had to be transferred to the local bodies which were more in touch with the people than Government. Already—if my information is correct—a large number of resignations in the mercenary establishment of A.R.P. has been submitted and many more may follow. Without the psychological impetus and the patriotic urge the civil defence responsibility would be without life and would be valueless and would end in a mere expenditure of money which is so badly needed for other purposes. The Finance Minister has stated that the Indian mass-consciousness remains yet to be stirred to its depth to meet the urgent call of the hour, the Indian deadlock has to be solved with the least possible delay and the Indians have to be implicitly trusted and the power of shaping and administering the national policy in time of war must be handed over to Indians. People ask "Will this be done, and, if so, when or is it too late?"

In this context the provision for emergency jails of a lakh and a half sounds a very jarring note. The time has come not to spend on

emergency jails and keep people confined who ought to be here to protect their own family, hearth and home. I think the jail gates should be flung open at least to let out those prisoners who for political convictions and acts are now behind the bar and then and then alone would it be an appropriate step.

Sir, I think I must congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister on the provision for communal harmony. We are opposed to lump provisions as a general rule and we hope that a very effective scheme will soon be brought into operation so that this much-desired, much-needed thing in the province may go ahead. We on this section of the House wholeheartedly assure our co-operation because that is one of the things that the Congress is enjoined to do.

Sir, before I sit down there is only one other thing to which I would draw attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. Sir, I warn him against the anomalies and iniquities in the operation of the Sales Tax Act which is about to create turmoil in this Province of Bengal too. I want the Hon'ble Finance Minister to prevent what is happening in the Province of the Punjab by tackling the anomalies and iniquities in the operation of the Sales Tax Act.

I am told that my time is very limited, but may I address an appeal to the new Ministry that they must show by their conduct that they are not going to do mere routine work but that they are determined to bring in a new outlook and they are determined to take steps which will enable them to mobilise public opinion and public co-operation at this great hour of trial. I cannot overstate the necessity for prompt action and courageous action on the part of the Ministry. I have done and with these words, Sir, I hope the Ministry will react to my appeal.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are also anxious to know about the talk between Dr. Sanyal and yourself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will tell you later on.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must confess I was not one of those that expected any change for the better in the Budget proposals presented by the Shyama-Huq Cabinet though some of the "Forward Bloc" stalwarts, who in the past used to be the loudest in their clamour for more provisions for the nation-building departments, now adorn the Treasury Bench. For, I was aware of the fact that it is those who shout loudest that can achieve

the least amount for which they cry so hard. Therefore the Budget proposals have not disappointed me. But to make matters worse there are proposals incorporated in the Budget demands which simply take one's breath away. I shall cite one instance. There is the proposal for a provision of a lakh of rupees for the purpose of promoting communal harmony in the province. The present Ministry and their camp followers have been harping on this theme of communal union merely for the purpose of hoodwinking the public in order to win some cheap popularity. For they must realise that neither Mr. Fazlul Huq, a deserter and a rebel from the only recognised Muslim organization, namely, the Muslim League nor the Forward Bloc Leaders, all similar rebels and deserters from the Congress organization—can deliver the goods on behalf of their communities. Therefore their swashbuckling, clap trap and showy speeches cannot appeal to the hearts of the masses. Because, for the attainment of a real unity between the two great sister communities there must be real agreement and sincerity of purpose between the two recognised representative organisations like the League and the Congress. It is these two organisations and these two organisations alone that can speak on behalf of their respective communities. Rebels and outcasts, with no practical following in the country, have no right to speak on behalf of the communities they have so treacherously betrayed. If Mr. Fazlul Huq or Mr. Sarat Bose have any grain of political honesty they must seek the verdict of the people by a referendum or a general election so as to vindicate their right to represent the people in the altered circumstance of their having changed their political colouring. Political intrigue, corrupt practices, bribery and dishonest tactics may have given them power to-day but such conduct will not be tolerated by the growing consciousness of the masses. Muslim Bengal has already delivered its verdict in no uncertain manner at Serajgunge and Mr. Fazlul Huq, the show-boy Premier of Bengal, is bound to rue the day he placed his egoistic self before the larger interest of his community.

Now as the first step towards the achievement of communal harmony, the importance of which has now after 4½ years dawned upon Mr. Fazlul Huq, he has assumed to himself the *guradership* of Hindu Bengal and at the same time conferred upon the large and capable shoulders of the Working President of the Hindu Mahasabha the responsibilities of the office of the *imamship* of the Mussalmans. Now, Sir, ——

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to have your ruling, Mr. Chairman, on this point, *viz.*, whether in the general discussion of the Budget a gentleman is entitled to go into matters of communal affairs and other issues, refer to the Hindu Mahasabha and its combination with other parties and pass remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): The honourable member must know that there is an item in the Budget providing Rs. 1 lakh for promoting communal harmony. I think the speech is relevant.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I want your ruling on the point as to whether the name of "Hindu Mahasabha" can be dragged in the course of discussion regarding the provision of Rs. 1 lakh?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Certainly. Before you give your ruling, Mr. Chairman, may I point out to the honourable gentleman opposite through you that the general discussion of the Budget means a general discussion of the general policy of the Government and of the Opposition. Therefore all that has been said is entirely correct and parliamentary.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that though a general policy may be discussed, the Mahasabha or a particular association cannot be dragged in in the course of discussion of the Budget policy. Discussion should be on a particular item of money provided in the Budget. So, I would like to have your ruling whether the name of any particular association which is not directly concerned with that item of money provided in the Budget can be dragged in.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hold that the honourable member (Khan Bahadur) is in order.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: As I was saying, as a corollary to this huge and colossal joke perpetrated on an astonished and aghast Muslim and Hindu Bengal, we find that a lakh of rupees is proposed to be frittered away from the Provincial Exchequer for a purpose which neither Mr. Fazlul Huq, the Gurudev of Hindu Bengal, nor Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookharji, the "Amir-e-Millat" of Muslim Bengal can promise to us. We have, on the other hand, a shrewd and lurking suspicion that this amount is to be squandered away in subsidising the Hindu-owned "Navajug" of which Mr. Fazlul Huq is the patron-in-chief and in appointing some relations and friends of the members of the Cabinet, as propaganda officers, simply to sing songs of praise of the newly-formed Shyama-Huq Ministry.

Sir, I mentioned earlier about the bribery and corruption to which the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq took recourse. I shall cite an instance. In order to gain political power and attract sufficient number of camp followers he made promises of parliamentary jobs to all and sundry.

Now we find that Bengal has been presented with 17 Government Whips and a reference to the Budget discloses a provision of over Rs. 76,000 for payment of salaries.

Now, I ask you, Sir, in all seriousness if you or anybody have ever heard of 14 Whips being required for a house of 250, where the Government Party consists of, according to Mr. Fazlul Huq himself, 119 members. We do not know if more appointments of Parliamentary Secretaries in addition to his niece already appointed are in the offing. Nowhere in the world under any system of Parliamentary Government so many Government Whips are required. Bengal, at the instance of Mr. Fazlul Huq, has created a record of which she may well be ashamed. Mr. Fazlul Huq of *dal-bhat* fame is now instrumental in putting additional and unnecessary burden on the resources of the ill-fed, half-clothed, disease-stricken and over-taxed people of the province. For is it not a fact that only 2 Government Whips were considered sufficient by the past Ministry of which the self-same Mr. Fazlul Huq was the Premier and which functioned for over 4½ years? Is this not a clear case of political jobbery and corruption?

Sir, we are told that the war is at our door and so we must concentrate on "nation-saving" at the cost of "nation-building." And, therefore, it is proposed to spend over a crore of rupees on Civil Defence schemes. While agreeing as to the necessity of spending this money on so important a matter as the saving of lives of the people, I cannot help commenting on the fact that while we Indians are to pay the piper we are deprived of calling for the tune. I mean while we go on rendering all help to the British Government with men, money and materials we are deprived of our right to have any practical say in the defence of our country. This is a very sorry state of affairs and the sooner it is set right the better it would be for all concerned.

Sir, under the Civil Defence scheme a good number of appointments have been made and are likely to be made to the various A.R.P. departments. But we regret to find that the Communal Ratio Rules in the matter of these appointments are not being observed. This is a sad commentary on the fairmindedness of the present Ministry. We hope that there will be no deviation from the Government rules in this connection and that it would be strictly followed in all appointments under the scheme.

Now, Sir, I come to another important matter which has been agitating our minds. I refer to the flagrant abuse of powers by the Government under the Defence of India Act. The Defence of India Rules were promulgated for the purpose of controlling the subversive activities of revolutionary parties and to tackle with Fifth Columnists. But the present Government are misusing the powers vested in them by these rules in checking the legitimate activities of the Muslim League

Organisation which is neither subversive nor revolutionary in character. Furthermore, the Muslim League had never nor has ever any intention of hindering in any way whatsoever the war efforts of Government.

Therefore, can it be denied that the Muslim League meetings are being banned, its workers interned and externed under the Defence of India Rules simply because the Muslim members of the present Cabinet are not able to face their constituents? Repressive measures are being adopted against the students for their participation in peaceful and legitimate demonstrations against the personnel of the Ministry. The police even went to the extent of manhandling a batch of students in the very presence of the Premier of the province, who, sad to say, took no notice of the occurrence. Mr. Fazlul Huq, once an accredited patron leader of the students has now stooped so low as to allow and permit indecent and indiscriminate assaults on students. And all these because the profound vanity of Mr. Fazlul Huq had been hurt by the sight of a black flag demonstration. The display of black flags in the eyes of the present Ministry is a crime of the worst type punishable under the Defence of India Rules. Can any one conceive of baser abuse of such powers?

Then again, many Muslim League workers are being persecuted for utterances entirely legitimate and in no way calculated to embitter communal feelings or hamper or hinder Government's war efforts. It is a sad irony of fate that the Government, whose *de facto* Premier is—Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, is bent on adopting repressive measures for perfectly innocent speeches, when the said Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee himself was guilty of utterances calculated to arouse the bitterest communal hatred. It may not be out of place to quote a few examples of the type of speeches of Dr. Syamaprosad Mookerjee who was allowed to go scotfree by the past Ministry rather than curtail the civil liberties of the people or hinder the freedom of speech of any person.

Sir, here is an extract from the speech delivered at the All-India Hindu Mahasabha Conference on the 29th December, 1939:

> "They must organise the Hindu youths who had given their lives at the gallows with smiles on their lips and the cry of 'Bande Mataram'."

Then, Sir, in a speech delivered at the Albert Hall on the 8th July, 1940, Dr. Mookerjee said:

> "The late Bhola Nath Sen printed a picture and for that act he was murdered. The Muslims knew that they had no fear of knives from the Hindus."

Did this not amount to saying that the Hindus must put the fear of knives into the Muslims?

Then, again, in a speech delivered at the Sradhananda Park on the 4th August, 1940, he said:

"India was the land of the Hindus and the Hindus must assert themselves as a nation here and if anybody would strike them because of the fact that they were Hindus, they must have a reply to it. The Hindu youths of Bengal were now afraid of coming forward. But 15 years ago, they had mounted the gallows with smiling faces. If they would go forward along the path of their duty, no power would be able to hold them in check."

Once again there is an appeal to the Hindu youths to emulate the ways of the terrorists.

Then again, Sir, at Krishnagar on November 17, 1940, he said:

"To-day in Bengal no Hindu has any chance of securing any job. Bengal has not yet given a fitting reply to all this (oppression and injustice on Hindus). Hindus want that Hindu domination must be established in India; it is not unfair for us to make this demand. Bengal Hindus will not accept the rule of a Ministry which is the result of communal electorate (and now he is on the Cabinet which is also the result of communal electorate). Direct action must become so widespread that the Government will have to come to a standstill at once. We must take the law into our own hands."

Then, he said:

"Life must be sacrificed. Of twenty crores Hindus, cannot fifty thousand Hindus sacrifice their lives for the sake of the Hindus of Bengal and India? Many lives are lost every day through malaria, typhoid, pneumonia, etc. If for this cause 50 thousand Hindus die Bengal will not shed tears for them but rather raise temples of gold to commemorate their sacrifices. All of you should say with one voice that we shall have our birth-right accepted by constitutional means, if possible, if not by unconstitutional means."

There cannot be a worse incitement to violence.

At Narayanganj on the 16th December, 1940, he said:

"Boys and men should be sent to the village where a wrong was committed to the Hindus. If the Bengal Government was not prepared to defend them then they should take the law in their own hands".

At Murapara, Dacca, on 17th December, 1940, he said:

"The Muslims should live in India on good terms with the Hindus as sons of the great mother country. Otherwise, the Hindus won't tolerate any injustice and oppression which the Hindus would not only protest against but would resist and retaliate".

Almost like the *satana* speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq. The speaker (Dr. Shyamaprasad Mookerjee) was not a believer in non-violence. He stated that he was in favour of violence because according to him it was power that counted most.

Then again at Bankura on the 31st January, 1941, he requested the Hindus in general to adopt the "tit for tat" policy and to have reliance upon active resistance—again the repetition of *satana* policy of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Wherefrom is the honourable member reading? May we know the name of the paper and the date of issue?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the honourable member agrees to give way, it is all right; otherwise you cannot interrupt him except on a point of order.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: On a point of order, Sir. The speaker says that he is quoting from a particular document. Is not the House entitled to know what the document is?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: It may be a fabricated document.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: I submit that the House has a right to know what is the name of the document. Let the Chair give its ruling.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A point of order has been raised. I would request the honourable member to state wherefrom he is quoting.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am quoting from the official records submitted to the Dacca Riots Enquiry Committee.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: On a point of order, Sir. My point is this. I want to know whether he is reading from the records of the Dacca Riots Enquiry Committee which are not yet published or is he reading from newspaper cuttings?

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: I would like to draw your attention to one point. The point to be ascertained is whether the statements are correct or not. Now, Sir, all these statements referred to were, it is said, made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. Dr. Mookerjee is here. He may deny them, if he wants to.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: I beg to submit that it is not fair.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Why is the honourable member afraid to give out the name and the date of issue of the paper?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: When the time comes, you will hear that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the honourable member is quoting from any paper, I think that he should give the name of the paper or if he has heard his speeches, he should say so.

(At this stage Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin vacated and the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the honourable member who is now in possession of the House was reading from a document. I want to know what is the name of the document, what is the name of the newspaper he is reading from? And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Chairman, who in your absence was just occupying the Chair, asked the honourable member to give out the name of the newspaper he was quoting from.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, from the excerpts just quoted it is absolutely clear——

Mr. SYED HASAN ALI CHOWDHURY: Apart from all other considerations may I ask you, Sir, what bearing has it on the Budget now under discussion?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, the Chairman who was presiding in your absence has given his ruling that the honourable member must mention the name of the newspaper from which he was quoting. Before the honourable member further proceeds with his speech he ought to be made to bow to the ruling of the Chair and disclose the name of that paper.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am quoting, Sir, from the *Star of India*—(Cries of "Shame", "shame" and counter-cries in the

House)——Then addressing the Muslims of Noakhali he (Dr. Mukherjee) said, ".....If you do not accept the good of India as your good, then the 28 crores of Hindus will tell you, 'brothers, all of you with all your belongings leave this country and go to those other countries'"——(Cries of "Shame", "Shame" from the Muslim League Benches)——"There are many provinces in India where Muslims are in a minority. There are places where Muslims are not even one per cent. If organised attempts are made——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think you have finished quoting from the *Star of India.*

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: One word more, Sir, and I will finish.

".....(by Hindus) to rob those few Muslims of their legitimate right what will happen? Throughout the country that same word will be proclaimed....."

Sir, this is the type of *satana* speeches that Dr. Mookerjee is in the habit of delivering as a Mahasabha leader.

From the extracts just quoted it is absolutely clear how militantly communal and violent in character were the speeches delivered by Dr. Mookerjee all over Bengal. In the name of civil liberty of the people a Ministry then—predominantly Muslim in character—allowed Dr. Mookerjee the fullest possible scope to have the completest of freedom of speech. And now that Dr. Mookerjee is in power he has no further respect for the civil liberty of which he was once professedly a champion. To Dr. Mookerjee what is sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot but say something on the general discussion of the Budget. At the very outset, Sir, I should like to mention that the present Ministry is nothing but a phase of the last one, that is to say, it is one of the varying appearances of the very same old Ministry. I cannot but fully corroborate the statement made by my several friends from this side of the House that the present Ministry is nothing but an image of the last one which can be fully illustrated.

Sir, nobody will find anything new in this Budget than the previous ones. We thought, and thought wrongly now we see, that this Budget would have been different from those presented by the previous Government. The Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee has wanted to say and thereby to feel proud of that under some heads of expenditure, such as on Education, Public Health and Industries—Cinchona, besides others, that there will be an increase over that of the current year and

thereby to score a credit over the last Cabinet. But I can assure the Hon'ble Dr. Mookerjee that his attempt and intention has fallen to the ground and that there is nothing on his part to be pround of. In his presentation of the Budget there can be found no new revelations than those of the past Cabinet.

Take, for instance, the expenditure on Education made by the last Cabinet. In the year 1939-40 there had been an increase of Rs. 7,13,000 over that of the previous year: in the year 1940-41 there had been an increase of Rs. 9,57,000 and in the current year, that is to say, for the year 1941-42, the Budget of which had been framed and presented by the last Cabinet, there has been still an increase towards the head "Education" and the increase is Rs. 16,47,000 which is the figure, Sir, if you take into consideration the budgeted amount, but if you take the revised amount, it would be little less, that is to say, Rs. 12,41,000: so the present Government cannot feel the slightest pride in having an increase of Rs. 6,31,000 only towards educational expenditure of this province. Then, Sir, take the case of Public Health. Here the increase in expenditure is Rs. 5½ lakhs more than the previous revised amount. But, Sir, can you call it an improvement or an amount worthily increased when we can see and cannot ignore the importance of this big item? Thousands and thousands of people of our province are dying every year of preventible epidemic diseases. Does the Hon'ble the Finance Minister take into account the number of deaths, or does he now forget it, that take place every year in Bengal from malaria, cholera, small-pox, consumption and other epidemic and contagious diseases? Hence, Sir, it cannot be said that the provision made in the next year's Budget towards this direction, namely, Public Health, is at all a worthy or commendable sum.

Then, Sir, equally is the case with another important item—Industries—Cinchona—which I do not want to elaborate as the time at my hand is short.

Now, Sir, as regards the items, such as Jails and Convict Settlements, Police, etc., no Government which has got the slightest sense of honouring the public demand and public views will allow such a huge amount to be spent towards those items, when the other nation-building departments are not adequately supplied with money, but, on the contrary, practically speaking, starving. What did the Hon'ble Minister himself say about the amount spent towards these items in previous years by the past Government, when the present Hon'ble Finance Minister was not a member adorning the Treasury Bench? Has the Hon'ble Minister forgotten those speeches of his own which he delivered formerly on the very floor of this House and outside? I, Sir, request the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to go through those speeches of his own once again and see what he had said so far as the

expenditure towards General Administration, Jails and Convict Settlements and Police are concerned. Can the Hon'ble the Finance Minister be pleased to point out any responsible Government in which the expenditure on Police exceeds that on Education? When the Hon'ble Dr. Mookerjee came to take this portfolio of Finance we thought, Sir, that a man of his intelligence and calibre would not have at all allowed or tolerated such a thing to happen, but to our utter disappointment, Sir, I find the same thing happening again.

Now, Sir, as regards the point of Scheduled Castes' education, I cannot but regret that in spite of repeated demands and requests on the floor of this House and outside by the Scheduled Caste members of this House and of the Council, amongst whom I am one, the present Cabinet has not in the least paid any attention to that. I had a greater hope from the present Ministry than from the last one for I thought the former would surely take a greater interest in Scheduled Castes' education. Times without number most of the present members of the Treasury Bench had said before they were occupying the said Bench that greater attention to Scheduled Castes' education should be given in view of their backwardness in education. But now, Sir, to my utter surprise I find that the very same members of the Treasury Bench have utterly forgotten those utterances of their own and have made a provision which is a very considerably paltry sum. I hope and earnestly request the Finance Minister that he should again look into this affair and reconsider the matter in the very near future.

Then, Sir, as regards the Civil Defence, Government is going to spend a little over Rs. 4 crores. The Finance Minister has called his Budget a war Budget and has said also that this time nation-saving takes the place of nation-building. I cannot understand how a Government which, by constitution, has got nothing to do by way of taking active military defence but by only trying to save the people from being wounded or killed and by giving relief to the wounded people from air attack or otherwise by allowing a provision of a very paltry sum of a little over Rs. 4 crores, considering the vastness of the case, can call its budget a war budget. Perhaps the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has been fascinated or charmed by the mere phrase, namely, the war budget, because he has very often, as we do, heard the independent countries of the world framing war budgets of their own. It is fantastic that he will be able to save us from Japanese bombs. How much relief can we expect if we consider closely the case of other countries which have been attacked from outside? Can it be expected that the present Government can fully save us from death and devastation if our province is attacked by air or by other ways?

What happened in England? What happened in other independent countries having enormously greater sum in comparison to ours at their disposal? Have they been able to save their countrymen from grievous

casualties and deaths? At the expense of many crores of rupees Singapore which has been said repeatedly to be impregnable has not been able to resist and save itself from grievous casualties, devastations and deaths of its population. To expect to save the people of Calcutta from the said results and consequences if Calcutta is attacked from outside by land force or by air with such a paltry sum is a mere dream. So it should be the duty of the present Government instead of spending the said amount for Civil Defence in Calcutta and in some other urban areas to spend some portion and a good portion of it to save the people of this province from dying of malaria, consumption, small-pox, cholera and other kinds of epidemic and contagious diseases. From Japanese bombs more people will not die as they die annually of those diseases. And to save those people will be the actual saving of the nation and this saving will in the real sense of the term take the place of nation-building.

Now, Sir, as regards industries, I should say that the present Cabinet has totally and practically ignored the case of cottage shoe and leather industries and at the same time the handloom industries of Bengal. In this province there are lakhs and lakhs of people who carry on their livelihood out of these industries. The attention of the Government has not in the least been drawn and never had been directed towards these people, which I must admit is a very deplorable state of affairs on the part of the Government. These people are now fully at the mercy of the capitalist shoe-shop owners. Proper and adequate training in shoe-making, leather tanning and in other kinds of leather industries should be given to them.

With regard to the handloom industries, Sir, I like to draw the attention of the Government to this effect that due to the excessive rise in the price of cotton yard nowadays the weavers of Bengal are now without any means of livelihood. I should desire, Sir, that the Government should take immediate steps to reduce the price of cotton yarn and fix up a limit to the maximum price and thereby restore and revive the poor weavers to a good living.

Sir, I find one and only one item for which I can at least congratulate the present Ministers and that is due to the fact that there has been a provision for a lakh of rupees for securing communal harmony amongst the two great communities. This amount is very very insignificant considering the importance and vastness of this matter. I wish, Sir, that the Government should spend a bigger sum than the amount budgeted towards this direction. Of course, I should say at the very same time that their attempt towards the promotion of communal harmony should be a genuine and sincere one. At the same time, Sir, it would have been quite good and commendable on the part of the Government had they made another provision for the purpose of

easing the relation between the so-called Caste Hindus and the Scheduled Castes so far as the question of untouchability is concerned. The question of Scheduled Castes and Caste Hindus is such a matter which should not be ignored at all and nobody can say what serious and dangerous course it may take in the future if the said matter be allowed to remain as it is to-day.

Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, the present year is an exceptional year and the Budget must therefore be regarded as an exceptional one. The expenditure which the provincial revenues has to bear next year on account of Civil Defence expenditure totals a huge sum of one crore and 25 lakhs. It was Rs. 78 lakhs in the current year. The total expenditure on account of Civil Defence measures exceeds 4 crores of rupees. Out of this about 2 crores will be consumed by the establishment charges, that is, payment to the personnel of the various A.R.P. services. Sir, it occurs to me, as it must have occurred to many others, that an assurance must be forthcoming that there is no disproportion in the distribution of expenditure. From their very nature the A. R. P. services are more or less of a transitory type. It is necessary to mention these few words because the amount involved is so heavy, almost equal to the total annual income of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation. But, Sir, the fact of all facts, which must be realised to-day, is the urgency and importance of Civil Defence measures. It is therefore necessary that these measures are carried out by decision rather than discussion, by co-ordination rather than controversy. In order to secure efficiency it is of the utmost importance that power and decision are both centralised

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has told us how in securing the allocation of Civil Defence expenditure between the Centre and the provinces, the Province of Bengal has not been unfairly treated. The Government of India have agreed to give special relief to Bengal. While we are generally satisfied with the results of deliberations of our Provincial Government with the Government of India there are certain special features which call for attention.

First, so far as Bengal is concerned there has been heavy decline on the receipts from jute export duty, the decline being directly due to the restriction of exports owing to the unfavourable turn world events have taken.

Secondly, the income-tax receipts from Bengal have been higher this year. Yet we have a right to expect that this ought to have been still higher. It is easy enough to understand why the receipts have not been as high as one would have wished. Increase in income from the income-tax in any province is an index to what may be called the "war prosperity" of that province. Compared to other provinces the "war prosperity" of Bengal, having regard to her material resources, has

not been as high as we would have wished. In the distribution of war orders and in the placing of war contracts it is of some importance to assure ourselves that our province has been accorded her legitimate and rightful share.

The third factor, Sir, which ought to weigh in any discussion regarding the allocation of Civil Defence expenditure is the fact that the measures which Bengal needs for her Civil Defence are assuredly of far greater magnitude than in any other province. Bengal is practically in the front line of coming events.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has spoken of the adverse effects of flood, the need for more agricultural advance and the impoverishment due to communal tension. Sir, the allotment for the promotion of communal harmony is a step in the right direction.

Amongst other minor features there is a scheme for the removal of beggars from the city of Calcutta. This much-needed step has been engaging the attention of the civic authorities with which I have been associated for years together. The Government of Bengal will earn the gratitude of the citizens of Calcutta if something definite can result out of their endeavours.

Sir, as a member of the Scheduled Castes I draw the attention of the House to the current year's provision of one lakh and 25 thousand rupees for the advancement of education amongst the members of the Scheduled Castes numbering about one-fifth of the total population of the province. About this time last year when the current year's budget was being framed I pleaded that the allotment was inadequate. I repeat the same to-day, although I fully realise that there are other pressing demands now in view of the clouds gathering ominously in the East.

Sir, as I said, this year is an exceptional year. Yet none of our perennial problems are lacking, problems of disease, problems of ignorance, problems of poverty. Add to these the problems which now arise out of communal discord. The situation calls for a farsighted financial policy, which must aim at a comprehensive economic rehabilitation of the entire province of Bengal.

Sir, our province has enormous material resources, yet industrially it is by no means to the fore. It is capable of producing enormous stocks of foodstuffs and yet those in Bengal, who raise the crops and rear the fish are the poorest in all India—poorest in the entire world. Sir, a large section of these unfortunate people belongs to my own community.

Lastly, Sir, the economic level of the masses cannot be raised unless the vast material resources of the province are developed in the interest

of the province. For some time to come the one aim of the Government ought to be to raise the economic level, to improve and enhance the material resources, of the people of Bengal. All other activities should be subordinated to this one great task, because once this is achieved, all other problems will find a ready solution. Sir, disease, poverty, ignorance and crime obviously breed and thrive in a society which lacks the essential and indispensable quantum of material resources.

MAULVI MD. HASANUZZAMAN : Deputy Speaker মহোদয়! বাংলা সরকারের ১৯৪২-৪৩ সনের বাজেট আলোচনা উপলক্ষে ২।৪টী কথা বলিবার সুযোগ পাইয়া আপনাকে ধন্য মনে করিতেছি।

সুজলা, সুফলা, শস্য শ্যামলা বাংলা আজ অজলা, অফলা, অজন্মা বাংলাতে পরিণত হইয়াছে। বাংলার মরণমুখী পল্লীবাসীকে বাঁচাইবার উদ্দেশ্যে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ টাকা এই বাজেটে বরাদ্দ করা হয় নাই। বিগত Ministry পল্লীবাসী কৃষকদের সর্ব্বপ্রকার সাহায্য করার জন্য যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ টাকা ব্যয় করেন নাই। সহরের উন্নতি কল্পেই প্রচুর অর্থ ব্যয় করিয়াছেন। দরিদ্র পল্লীবাসী আজ অতিরিক্ত খাজানার চাপে, দেনার দায়ে, বিশুদ্ধ পানীয় জলের অভাবে দিশাহারাভাবে অকূল সাগরে ভাসিতেছে। ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রিসভা দেশের কল্যাণের জন্য সন্তোষজনক কাজ করিতে সক্ষম হন নাই বলিয়া মন্ত্রিসভার বদ বদল করিয়া এই জনপ্রিয় Progressive মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল গঠন করা হইয়াছে। কতকগুলি স্বার্থপর লোকের অন্যায় আন্দোলন সত্বেও দেশবাসীর এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর প্রতি শ্রদ্ধা দিন দিন বাড়িতেছে। দেশের প্রকৃত হিতকামীদের বিশ্বাস, এই মন্ত্রীসভা দ্বারা দেশের প্রকৃত কল্যাণ সাধিত হইবে। ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রী, Sir Nazimuddin গ্রাম্য চৌকিদারী প্রথার সংশোধন করিয়া চৌকিদারী tax গ্রামবাসী হইতে একেবারে উঠাইয়া দিবার বা কমাইয়া দিবার আশ্বাস অনেকবার দিয়াছিলেন কিন্তু করি করি বলিয়াও ৪ বৎসর পর্য্যন্ত কিছুই করেন নাই। এইভাবে বৃথা আশায় ৪ বৎসর কাটিয়া গেল। ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রী Sir Bejoy Prasad Singh জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদ করিবার ও দরিদ্র প্রজাদের খাজনার হার কমাইবার জন্য ব্যবস্থা করিবার বহু আশ্বাস দেওয়া সত্বেও কিছুই করেন নাই বিধায় সর্ব্বসাধারণের আস্থা হারাইয়াছেন। ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রী সহিদ সুরাবর্দ্দি Sales Tax ও Jute Tax বসাইয়া সর্ব্বসাধারণের করভার আরও বাড়াইয়া দিয়াছেন। দরিদ্র কৃষকের করভার লাঘব না করিয়া বরঞ্চ তাঁহার আমলে নূতন নূতন tax বসিয়াছে। ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রী তমিজুদ্দিন সাহেব যখন বিরোধী দলে ছিলেন, তখন প্রজার স্বার্থের পক্ষে অনেক লম্বা লম্বা বক্তৃতা দিয়াছিলেন কিন্তু মন্ত্রী হইয়া প্রজার উপকার ত দূরের কথা, বরং নূতন নূতন কর ধার্য্যে সহায়তা করিয়াছেন। শুনা যায়, জমিদারী প্রথা উঠাইয়া দিবার বিরুদ্ধে তিনিও নাকি প্রবলভাবে চেষ্টা করিয়াছিলেন। তাই আজ দরিদ্র চাষীদের মরণ পথ হইতে বাঁচাইবার জন্য সর্ব্বদল সম্মিলিত এই বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল গঠন করা হইয়াছে। নয় জন মন্ত্রীর মধ্যে সাত জনই নূতন। ইঁহাদের সকলের অতীত কার্য্যাবলী আলোচনা করিলে দেখা যায় ইঁহারা চিরকালই জনসাধারণের মঙ্গলের বিষয় চিন্তা করিয়াছেন। Assemblyতে তাঁহাদের সমালোচনা ইত্যাদিও দরিদ্র চাষীদের উপকারের জন্যই দেখা গিয়াছে। তাই এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর দ্বারা দেশবাসীর প্রকৃত উপকার সাধিত হইবে বলিয়া আমার বিশ্বাস।

১৯৪১ সনের মে মাসের প্রবল তুফান ও বন্যার ফলে ত্রিপুরা জিলার লাক্সাম ও চৌদ্দগ্রাম থানার দরিদ্র চাষীদের যথেষ্ট ক্ষতি হইয়াছে। এ সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্ট ও জিলার সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণ সম্যক অবগত আছেন। কিন্তু খয়রাতি দান ও কৃষি-ঋণ যাহা দেওয়া হইয়াছে তাহা প্রচুর নহে। উভয় থানার কয়েকটী জায়গায় উভয় ফসলই নষ্ট হইয়াছে। ছেলেমেয়ে লইয়া বহু পরিবার অন্নাভাবে ধ্বংসের পথে চলিয়াছে। বহু লোক না খাইতে পাইয়া মারা গিয়াছে বা যাইতেছে। রীতিমত রিপোর্ট দেওয়া সত্ত্বেও সন্তোষজনক প্রতিকার ব্যবস্থা হইতেছে না। গড়ে ১৪।১৫ টাকা করিয়া ঋণ-দান করা হইয়াছে। এইবার মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণের লাকসাম ও লাঙ্গলকোট পরিদর্শনের সময় হাজার হাজার লোক, কৃষি-ঋণ, খয়রাতী দান, test relief workএর জন্য আবেদন করিয়াছে কিন্তু এখনও সন্তোষজনক প্রতিকার হইতেছে না। জিলার সরকারী অফিসারদের সঙ্গে আলোচনায় বুঝা যায় তাঁহারা সন্তোষজনক আবশ্যকীয় টাকা পাইতেছেন না। পরস্পর কথায় জানা যায় চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগীয় কমিশনার সাহেব এই বিষয়ে উদাসীন। মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণ এ বিষয়ে সন্তোষজনক ব্যবস্থা করিবার জন্য অগ্রসর হউন। ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর ন্যায় বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর উদাসীন হইলে চলিবে না। দরিদ্র কৃষক-প্রজার সর্ব্বপ্রকার ব্যাপার খবরাখবর লইয়া তাহার আশু প্রতিকার করিয়া আপনারা চিরস্মরণীয় হউন। দেশের প্রকৃত কল্যাণ ও জনসাধারণের উপকারের চেষ্টা করিলে এবং তার ব্যবস্থা করিলে শত্রুর মুখেও আপনাদের প্রশংসার গান শুনা যাইবে। আপনারা নামে popular না হইয়া কাজে popular হউন। দেশে সর্ব্বপ্রকার শান্তির ব্যবস্থা করুন।

ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী মন্ত্রিত্বের গদি হারাইয়া দেশের দরদী সাজিয়া বর্ত্তমান সময়ে পল্লীতে পল্লীতে গিয়া তাঁদের মনের ব্যথা প্রকাশ করিতেছেন। কিন্তু দরিদ্র পল্লীবাসী অনেক সময় অনেক জায়গায় তাঁদের প্রশ্ন করিতে বাধ্য হইয়াছে—এই যে যখন বন্যা ও তুফানে আমাদের সর্ব্বনাশ হইয়াছিল, তখন আমরা তোমাদের সহানুভূতি পাই নাই। তখন ত তোমরা ঘোরাঘুরি কর নাই। আমরা একবার ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রী সাহিদ সুরাবর্দ্দি সাহেবকে বলিয়াছিলাম যে আপনি যাবেন একবার লাকসামে, দেখুন দেশের অবস্থা কি রকম হইয়াছে, দেশবাসীর কি সর্ব্বনাশ হইয়াছে; কিন্তু তিনি বিন্দুমাত্রও অনুকম্পা দেখান নাই। একবার গিয়া আমাদের দেশের দুঃখদুর্দ্দশা দেখিবার বা তাহা দূর করিবার চেষ্টা করেন নাই। এক সময় স্যার বিজয় প্রসাদের কাছে নিজে গিয়াছিলাম—বলিয়াছিলাম একবার দেশের অবস্থা দেখুন কিন্তু তিনি তা প্রয়োজন মনে করেন নাই। আজকে তাঁরা লাক্সাম গিয়া লম্বা চৌড়া বক্তৃতা দিয়া আসিয়াছেন যে দেশের সর্ব্বনাশ আমরা করিতেছি—তাদের প্রতিক্রিয়াশীল পার্টি করে নাই। কিন্তু যখন লাক্সামের লোকেরা জিজ্ঞাসা করিয়াছিল তখন লাক্সামে মিটিং না করিয়া অন্যত্র মিটিং করিলেন কারণ জনসাধারণের নিকট দাঁড়াইয়া বলিবার তাঁদের কিছুই ছিল না। তাই ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রীরা যাহা চলিয়া গিয়াছেন, তাঁহাদের কার্য্যকলাপ যারা দেখিয়াছেন তারাই বুঝিতে পারেন যে মুস্লিম লীগের নামে নিজেদের ২,৫০০৲ টাকা হারাইয়া তারা দেশের গ্রামে গ্রামে লম্বা চৌড়া বক্তৃতা দিয়া বেড়াইতেছেন—দেশবাসীকে এইভাবে মুস্লিম লীগের নামে ধোকা দিবার জন্য। কিন্তু আমরা জানি মুসলমান কি চায়। মুসলমান এবং হিন্দু চায় তাদের ধর্ম্ম এবং কর্ম্ম। কিন্তু

আজ ভূতপূর্ব মন্ত্রীরা মানুষকে বাঁচাইবার চেষ্টা না করিয়া ২,৫০০৲ টাকার গদি হারাইয়া মনের দুঃখে Muslim Leagueএর নাম নিয়া ঘুরিতেছেন। এই সমস্ত লোক আগেও ছিল, বর্তমানে আছে এবং ভবিষ্যতেও থাকিবে।

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: The Hon'ble the Finance Minister's effort reminded the House of the mountain in labour which brought forth a ridiculous mouse. The Hon'ble Minister has produced a small Budget Speech instead of a lengthy dissertation which, I agree, is a great relief. His sole excuse for lack of any original proposals beneficial to Bengal is that there is a war on, an excuse that can be made to cover a multitude of sins. When the representatives of the tax-payers look for provision to improve the work of nation-building departments, we are told that the present business is to "save" the nation. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister in his newly-found alliance may enjoy a sensation of Saviourship but really in their uneasy yoking as Ministers in power they can only go deeper into the rut of profitless expenditure. The shibboleth about "the war being at the door of India" can be overused to justify a featureless do-nothing budget. Take general education, medical service and public health as a measure of uplift and amelioration for the province. Where Rs. 177 lakhs had been allowed as necessary in the previous year for education, Bengal has now a gift of Rs. 171 lakhs. There is a similar drop in medical service and public health, but still they talk of "saving" the nation.

The Progressive Coalition Party almost professes to be something of a Salvation Army though they start with a dull and retrograde programme, in which there is neither any relief to the tax-payer nor any increased amenities to the people of the province. Sir, if we look for progress, we shall find a rise in the number of placemen going up in geometrical progression. I see from the Budget Estimates (page 120) that while Parliamentary Secretaries required Rs. 22,800 the same fraternity in 1942-43 expects Rs. 76,800. I am not surprised at this trebled claim for funds to keep up Parliamentary Secretaries when we have before us the phenomenon of 17 whips to whip the supporters of the Government! The instinct of "nation-saving" cannot be associated with such a start and the spend-thrift effects of running a Ministry in the name of "nationalism" or "progressivism" or "salvationism" would make itself increasingly apparent when the "Kumbha Mela" crowd gets more aggressive with the spoils system, which has been launched. Expenditure has gone up while funds for public relief show no signs of expansion. The Ministers, occupied with commitments of political axe-grinding, run about like busy-bodies one day to Bihar to defy the orders of a sister Government—an unheard of and an unprecedented occurrence and yet to my surprise the Governor of Bengal looked on with an air of serene complacence—one day to Trichinopoly and the next day to Delhi in order to "save" the nation.

Mr. J. W. CHIPPENDALE: On a point of order, Sir. Can the honourable member bring in the name of His Excellency the Governor? He may say what he likes against the Ministry, but he cannot bring in the name of His Excellency the Governor in the debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want to know whether a member is permitted to bring in the name of His Excellency the Governor in the debate?

Mr. J. W. CHIPPENDALE: Yes, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He cannot.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: They know fully that the present House has gone stale by overstay but the Chief Minister who has the option to do so, dare not advise the Governor to dissolve the House for a general election but then we see among their nation-saving devices an allotment of one lakh of rupees for the promotion of communal harmony. You will find, Sir, on page 133 of the Civil Estimates that the sum is to be spent through the Publicity Department. Who is in charge of this department? Mr Fazlul Huq, of course: A fortunate gentleman indeed to be the custodian of so elastic a purse, a purse that can hold not only a lakh of rupees but also thousands of germs of mischief.

"Nava Jug" zindabad. Whether this one lakh will bring or will help to bring communal harmony or will bring further disharmony amongst the Mussalmans of this province is more than many can say at the present moment. Time alone will demonstrate which of the two it will purchase.

Sir, the cost of the Publicity Department has jumped from Rs. 3,32,204 to Rs. 5,69,000. In all earnestness, I ask you, Sir, how communal harmony can be promoted even with twenty times that amount when the whole composition of the Ministry is an affront to the Mussalmans of the province who have been manoeuvred into the "Opposition" like Nahas Pasha's Wafd Party in Egypt. A general election alone can clean our Augean Stables. This sum of Rs. 1 lakh would be on the tap with the Chief Minister regulating the flow. In the United Provinces, the Congress had in 1938 allotted a large sum of money in the name of rural uplift which went trickling out of the reservoir like a party fund into the pockets of the Congress workers by one channel of patronage or the other.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: On a point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member entitled to bring in other Governments?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the honourable member is not correct in bringing forward the analogy of other Provincial Governments.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: While I bow to your ruling, I submit that on previous occasions other Governments have been quoted and their actions criticised in this House.

A similar dole system, I predict, is likely to corrupt the public life of Bengal. What check is there going to be for preventing the spread of corruption through patronage by a Cabinet that begins with a mob of seventeen Whips to safeguard their position in the Legislature.

I have said that the Budget contains no gesture of encouragement or relief to the poor people of Bengal, but the Chief Minister and his colleagues who are bent on saving the nation have an allotment of Rs. 125 lakhs to flourish as Civil Defence expenditure. I am entirely in favour of early precautions against enemy surprise and I have done what an individual can, in the Calcutta Corporation. But I ask that there should be no fumbling or fraud in the spending of the tax-payer's money which is an equal trust for all the communities. I understand that in the selection of the A.R.P. personnel, Muslim candidates have not been given the chance due to them and I am sure any heart-burning through such discrimination will react very gravely on the morale of the people. I give this warning because the Muslim view should not go unrepresented, even though Mr. Huq has declared that the Finance Minister is the custodian of the Muslim interests and he in exchange has taken over the grave responsibility of looking after the Hindu interests in this province.

Sir, we of the Muslim League Party make a free gift of the Chief Minister to the Forward Block and to the Hindu Mahasabha. Let them hang on to him and let him hang on to them as long as they can. We have no use for him. As for Dr. Mookerjee, our guardian, I for one, and there are tens of millions of Mussalmans in this province alone like us, say without any hesitation we do not stand in need of guardians of the type of Dr. Mookerjee. We are blessed with the strength to stand on our own legs, to protect our rights and to fight for our own interests. We warn the Government that we shall not permit the taking of liberties, unbridled liberties, with the Mussalmans. Suppression and oppression, persecution and prosecution, the gross and flagrant abuse of the Defence of India Act and Rules and other Penal Codes will, if compelled, be resisted in the true Muslim way. We do not believe in Satyagraha nor in non-violence. Mr. Huq should at least know what resistance in the true Islamic sense means.

My honourable friend, Mr. Banerjee, a veteran Congressman of the orthodox school, for there is yet another school, the unorthodox school,

has declared on the floor of the House that the Congress is truly a national organisation. If he persists in being the proverbial ostrich that buries its head in the sand and says, "Thank God, no one can see me", I feel sorry for him. Yes, if he says that the Congress claims to represent the Hindus including the Mahasabha type and other types and is therefore entitled to call itself a "truly national" organisation, I will be the last person to contradict him. But if he means that the Congress represents the Mussalmans as well, he is decidedly, definitely and positively wrong. The Mussalmans in this sub-continent are a nation. They cannot and will not accept the position of an all-India minority. Can they be blamed? Certainly not. When the present wretched constitution came into operation Congressmen, intoxicated with the first draught of power, ran wild and loose in six provinces. Every Mussalman is conversant with the treatment or has heard the tales of woe.

Before I conclude my speech I shall quote Mr. H. G. Wells. He says: "The shifty politicians of India and England who are dreaming to impose a unitary nation on India either do not know the A, B, C of the most complex nature of the international problems of India or they are in league with the closest caste of social and political monopolists known to history. The function and objective of Islam in this land is to smash and liquidate the capitalistic monopoly and those who will stand in the path of this onward march will be fought to annihilation."

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Of which you are the propounder.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: The Budget, Sir, is not so framed as to hearten the people of Bengal because it is a hotch-potch affair worked up by a partnership which we on this side of the House regard as a ramp of pernicious opportunism.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Of which you are the propounder.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the statement made by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in presenting the Budget for the coming year it appears that he has applied his mind primarily to the question of Civil Defence and he has framed the Budget on the principle that "so long as the present emergency continues there can be no diversion of the resources of the province to purposes that can wait". Sir, the responsibility for the defence of India—no matter military or civil—entirely rests on the Centre; of course the responsibility is to the British Crown and not to the people of India through their representatives in the Legislatures.

In view of this constitutional difficulty it seems that the Hon'ble Minister has put forward the demand under the head "Extraordinary Charges". However, an arrangement has been made between the provinces and the Centre and a decision has been taken as to the allocation of expenditure on the subject between the Centre and the provinces. Sir, it merely demonstrates that the defence of the territory of India is the first and foremost concern of the British Crown, not so much the defence of life and property of the civil population inhabiting this territory.

Leaving aside the question of constitutional propriety, may I ask the Hon'ble Minister whether it is possible for the Provincial Government to organise effective Civil Defence? In this connection I beg to refer the Hon'ble Minister to the organisation for Home Defence—both military and civil—set up in the United Kingdom, the magnitude of the task and the amount of expenditure incurred by the British Government. It is most unfair and unjust that a portion of the responsibility for Civil Defence has been fastened on the Provincial Government. India has been involved in the war against her will, without the consent of Provincial Legislatures. If India had been politically independent, she would not have certainly declared war against Axis Powers for nothing. She would not have meddled in the affairs of Europe, for she is not at all concerned with who dominates the continent of Europe—Germany, Italy or Britain; nor has she any business to quarrel with Japan. India is a British dependency and has no will of her own. We have been put in a state of utter helplessness. We are between the devil and the deep sea. We are emphatically of opinion, Sir, that it is impossible for the Provincial Government to organise effective defence. The money thus proposed to be spent from the Provincial Exchequer would be sheer waste.

The most important thing that should engage the serious attention of the Government is the matter of internal security and peace, the solution of the problem of unemployment, of a vast number of people who have been or will be deprived of their occupation on account of war conditions. Already several thousands of people have returned to their native provinces from foreign countries on account of war conditions prevailing there. They have been deprived of their employment, and I know, ordinary people, cultivators and labourers who used to go to Rangoon for their livelihood cannot now go back there for their earning in order to supplement their bare income at home. So the problem of unemployment would assume a very serious turn.

Then, Sir, Government should tackle the problem—I mean, the food problem—because there is every possibility of starvation in the rural areas. Therefore an increase in the production of food crop is an urgent necessity in order to prevent the starvation of people on account

of unemployment. Further it is the duty of the Government to give employment to these unemployed persons. Government should apply their mind to the development of cottage industries for the purpose of giving employment, particularly to the unemployed, and to the introduction of spinning wheel, development of handloom industry and cultivation of long-staple cotton for supply of cotton to the spinners to meet the bare necessaries of life. because that will also to a certain degree meet the problem of scarcity of clothings. These are purposes that cannot wait. The Government should take the initiative in organising self-supporting units on a voluntary basis, if possible in every village. The Government should divert the resources of the province to these purposes. The provision made in the Budget for the maintenance of peace and security is very negligible—Rs. 1,70,000 for Calcutta and Rs. 1,20,000 for the rural areas. It is very insignificant.

Then, Sir, provisions have been made under the head "Agriculture and Industries" which are too inadequate. If the details are analysed it would appear that pay of officers, pay of establishments and contingencies have exhausted a major portion of the provision. These are for both nation-building and nation-saving purposes. It is evident that those departments are completely out of touch with the masses.

Then, Sir, the expenditure under the heads "Land Revenue", "Excise", "General Administrative", "Police", "Jails", etc., are gradually increasing from year to year in spite of persistent demand for retrenchment of expenditure under these heads. At this critical moment retrenchment is most urgently needed in order to have funds for taking up the nation-saving measures. Sir, at this critical hour when economic order has a tendency to be disturbed, trade, commerce and industry to be dislocated, retrenchment is urgently required. I believe the high-salaried officers of the Government should be prepared to undergo cuts in their pay. This sacrifice can be expected from the high-salaried officers. If they are not prepared to do that, their pious wishes for saving the nation will bear no fruit.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN : মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আজকে Budget Discussion হচ্ছে—এ সম্বন্ধে Opposition Bench থেকে এই Budget আলোচনায় কতকগুলি সুন্দর ভাষা তারা প্রয়োগ করেছেন। ভাষাগুলি উহাদেরই স্বকৃত ছিল। উহাঁর সঙ্গে ওদের পিছনে যে history আছে, তা সম্বন্ধে প্রথমেই আলোচনা করা উচিত। এ সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলবার পূর্ব্বে উহারা কোথায় ছিলেন এবং কোথায় গিয়েছেন ভাবা দরকার—কোন জ্বালায়, কোন যন্ত্রণায় অধীর হয়ে যে দু' মাস পরে এই বক্তৃতায় এরূপ ভাষা সর্ব্বাগ্রে ওদের মুখ থেকে বেরিয়ে গেল। উহারা আজকে শ্যামাপ্রসাদ বাবুকে গালাগালি দিচ্ছেন যে তিনি communal ভাব দেশে এনেছেন ও এখন বাড়াচ্ছেন। সেটা শ্যামাপ্রসাদ বাবু বাড়াচ্ছেন, না তথাকথিত লীগ

কমিটীর যারা এখানে আছেন, তারা বাড়াচ্ছেন, তা দেখা দরকার। প্রায় চারি বৎসর পূর্ব্বে যখন Bye-election হয়েছিল কলিকাতা করপোরেসনের বেলেঘাটাতে, সেখানে Congressর againstএ যে candidate দাঁড়িয়েছিল মহাসভা থেকে, সেই Hindu candidateকে support করেছিল কে? Muslim Leagueর পাণ্ডারা নিজেরা গিয়ে support করেছিল হিন্দু মহাসভাকে দাঁড় করাবার জন্য এবং কংগ্রেসকে down করবার জন্য। আজকে আমি স্পষ্ট ভাষায় বলতে চাই যে বাংলা দেশে communal ভিত্তিতে নিজেদের খুঁটী মজবুত করবার জন্য হিন্দু মহাসভাকে support করে মাননীয় শ্যামাপ্রসাদ বাবুকে communal করেছে এই তথাকথিত opposite League Bench এর তারাই। আজকে শ্যামাপ্রসাদ বাবুকে তারাই গালাগালি করছে। আমি বলব যে তথাকথিত Muslim League তারাই communal spirit এনেছে। আজ তাদের party থেকে দলে দলে লোক চলে যাচ্ছে। তারা এখন আর যখন সামলাতে পারছে না, তখন গালাগালি করছে। কাজেই আমি বলতে চাই—তাদের পিছনটা একটুখানি ভালভাবে চিন্তা করে দেখা দরকার। অবশ্য এদিক দিয়ে মহাসভার আমি তারিফ করছি না—বরং নিন্দা করছি এবং বার বার বলে এসেছি—আমরা যারা labour partyর পক্ষে—আমরা বার বার বলেছি—এই সব organisation হচ্ছে খুব দূষণীয়, খুব খারাপ, কিন্তু তার উৎপত্তি কে করেছে সেটা দেখা দরকার। সেইজন্য—আমি বলি—যদি এর জন্য কারও কোন দায়িত্ব থাকে, তা এই তথাকথিত oppositionএ League Benchএ যারা বসেছেন তাদের। এখন আমি আর একটা কথা বলতে চাচ্ছি—আজ যারা বলছেন যে এই বজেট যে দাখিল করা হয়েছে তা মোটেই ভাল হয় নাই, এবং শনিবার দিন মিঃ আবদুল লতিফ বিশ্বাস বলেছিলেন যে "এক লক্ষ টাকা Hindu-Muslim unityর জন্য বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে কিন্তু আমি বিশ্বাস করি না যে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী ঠিক ভাবে, ভাল ভাবে এই টাকা ব্যবহার করবেন।" কিন্তু আমাদেরও উহাদের কোন কথার উপরই বিশ্বাস হয় না। কারণ গত সাড়ে চার বছর তারা যে কথা বলেছেন—যে কাজ করবেন বলেছেন—সে কাজ করেন নি কোন দিন। তারা জগৎকে অবিশ্বাস করেছেন, কোনদিন নিজকেও বিশ্বাস করতে পারেন নি। কাজেই নূতন যে Ministry হয়েছে, তাকেও বিশ্বাস করতে পারেন না। কারণ তারা সত্য কথা কাকেও বলেন না। কাজেই তারা যে কথা দেন, আজ তা সকলেই অবিশ্বাস করে। দ্বিতীয় কথা—মহম্মদ আলি সাহেব "Star of India" থেকে অনেক quotation করে দেখিয়ে দিয়েছেন যে কি ভাবে শ্যামাপ্রসাদ বাবু communalism বাড়িয়েছেন। কিন্তু Muslim League মন্ত্রীরা কি করেছেন? তারা দেশের মঙ্গল কিছুই করতে পারেন নি। মন্ত্রীত্বের গদী থেকে তাদের যাওয়ার পূর্ব্বে Chief whip এবং অন্যান্য whip এর নামে যে সব টাকা, মোটা মোটা টাকা এবং যে travelling allowance bill নিতেন, সেটা বন্ধ হওয়ার পর এবার চারদিকে দেশময় তারা দৌড়া-দৌড়ি ছুটাছুটি করছেন, কিন্তু তাতে communalism বাড়ছে না কমছে। একথা কি তারা একবার চিন্তা করেছেন? যে মুহূর্ত্তে এই Ministry গদীতে বসেছেন, সেই থেকে চাকার দাঙ্গা এবং প্রত্যেক জায়গার দাঙ্গা থেমে গেছে। প্রত্যেক

জায়গার হিন্দু-মুস্লিম unity হচ্ছে। যে হিন্দু ও মুস্লিম একসঙ্গে পাশাপাশি বস্‌ত না, কথা বল্‌ত না, সেখানে unity committee হয়েছে। সেখানে আজ হিন্দু ও মুসলমান হাত ধরাধরি করে চলেছে। সিরাজগঞ্জের বক্তৃতায় আপনারা কি বল্‌তে চেয়েছিলেন? আপনারা আবেদন-নিবেদন করেছিলেন আবার গদীতে আসার জন্য। আবার আবেদন-নিবেদন কেন? গত সাড়ে চার বছরের আবেদন-নিবেদন কি ভুলে গেছেন? এর আগে আর একটা questionএ আমরা দেখেছি—আমার বন্ধু—নলিনাক্ষ সান্যাল সুরেশ বাবু সম্বন্ধে যে adjournment motion দিয়েছেন, তাতে এদের মধ্যে অনেকে এখানে এমন কিছু দরদ দেখাচ্ছেন যেন মনে হচ্ছে—মায়ের চেয়ে মাসীর দরদ বেশী। এত দরদ কেন? এখনও পূর্ব্বের order আমরা দেখি। October 22nd বা October 7th কিম্বা November 1stএর যে dateএ order দেওয়া হয়েছে, সেই সমস্ত order এখনও চল্‌ছে। সেই সময় তারা যে order দিয়েছিলেন—সেইগুলির এখনও জের চল্‌ছে। এখন কোন নূতন order হয়নি। কাজেই ওদের কাছে যখন এসব শুনি, তখন মনে হয় মায়ের চেয়ে মাসীর দরদ যেন বেশী! দ্বিতীয় কথা, আজকে Home Ministerএর টেবিলে গেলে বুঝতে পারেন তারা যে সব ৩।৪ বৎসরের file জমা করে স্তূপাকার করে রেখে গেছেন তা দেখে শেষ কর্‌তে পার্‌ছেন না—নূতন file এখন দেখবার কোন অবসরই পান নি এবং বজেট sessionর কয়েকদিন আগে মাত্র এই Ministry গদিতে উঠেছেন। এখানে আর একটা কথা হয়েছে যে Budget ঠিক ঠিকমত হয় নি। বজেট কি এক দিনে হয়? একি বাজারে যাওয়া যে শিয়ালদহ বাজারে গিয়ে মাছ তরকারী কিনে এনে চাকরকে বল্‌লেন—একজন মেহমান এসেছেন—বাজার হয়ে গেছে—ভাত তরকারী রেঁধে দাও! তোমরাইত ১১ মাস ধরে বসে সব তৈরী করেছিলে—এরা ত বারো মাসে এসেছে। এ কথা কি একবার ভেবে দেখেছ? তোমাদের একবার ভাবা উচিৎ তোমরা কি করে গেছ। যদি মনুষ্যত্ব থাকে তবে তোমাদের বল্‌তে হবে, স্বীকার কর্‌তে হবে যে এই শেষ মাসে এসে আজ বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীরা Hindu-Muslim unityর জন্য, জন-শিক্ষার জন্য, জন-রক্ষার জন্য তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির জন্য এবং অন্যান্য খাতে যে টাকা রেখেছেন, তোমরা তা রাখ্‌তে পার নি। তোমাদিগকে বার বার বলা সত্ত্বেও তোমরা কিছুই কর্‌তে পার নি। আজ তারা যেটুকু কর্‌তে পারছে সেজন্য তোমাদের নতজানু হয়ে তাদের ধন্যবাদ দেওয়া দরকার। কিন্তু এই সব যে বিরুদ্ধ ভাব দেখাচ্ছ—মনে হয়, সেটা গদি ছেড়ে দেওয়ার জন্য। তার শোকে করছ, না সত্যিকার মনেপ্রাণে করছ,—সেই কথা যদি আমাদের জানিয়ে দেও, তবে আমরা তৃপ্তিলাভ কর্‌তে পারি। কাজেই তোমাদিগকে এই সব মিথ্যা আচরণের বিরুদ্ধে আবার আমরা সাবধান করে দিচ্ছি। এই যে তথাকথিত লীগের নামে এখনও তোমরা চীৎকার করে আস্‌ছ এবং বল্‌ছ যে তোমরা মুসলমানদের represent কর—সে প্রমাণও আমরা পেয়েছি। সিরাজগঞ্জে যারা গিয়েছিল তাদের চেহারা মলিন কেন? আমরা জেনে নিয়েছি সেখানে কতলোক গিয়েছিল এবং কি ভাবে ভাড়া করে লোকজন নিয়ে তোমাদের প্রতিপত্তি দেখাবার চেষ্টা করেছিলে। তারপর Nawab of Dacca যখন গিয়েছিলেন ঢাকাতে সেখানে তাকে opposition

দেবার চেষ্টা করেছিলে। সেখানে আমাদের তরফ থেকে পুলিসের সহায়তা নেওয়া হয় নি—বরং অবারিত দ্বার ছিল। সেখানে কোথায় Oppositionএর লোক চলে গেল খুঁজে পাওয়া যায় নি; খুঁজে ঢাকা সহরে ত পেলাম না—নারায়ণগঞ্জ subdivisionএও তাদের পাত্তা পাওয়া যায় নি। আজ কলিকাতায় বসে মহল্লায় মহল্লায় মিটিং করে, সর্দ্দারদের মিটিংএ বার বার ডেকেও তাদের পাচ্ছ না। এতেও কি তোমরা এটা বুঝ্‌তে পার্‌ছ না তোমরা কোথায় গেছ? কাজেই আজ এখনও তোমাদের সাবধান করে দিচ্ছি তোমরা হুঁসিয়ার হয়ে চল। মহম্মদ আলি সাহেব আর একটা remark করেছিলেন। শরৎ বাবুর উপর কি সব word use করেছিলেন এবং Official Congressকে তারিফ করেছিলেন! কিন্তু আজকে এ দরদ হচ্ছে কেন? দুদিন আগে ত ওদের গালাগালি করতে। বগলে বসেছ বলে নাকি? কিন্তু ভুল কোর না। ওরা বড় চালাক। ওরা জানে কি ভাবে কি কর্‌তে হয়। ভুল কর্‌লে আবার হয়ত ক্ষতি হতে পারে।

এবার Budget discussion বিষয়ে আমি বল্‌তে চাই। বর্ত্তমান Ministryর কাছে আমার আবেদন আছে। আজকে জন-রক্ষার জন্য যে সওয়া কোটি টাকা রাখা হয়েছে, সেটা থেকে শ্রমিক সম্প্রদায়ের উন্নতির জন্য, তাদের রক্ষার জন্য, তার ব্যবস্থা কর্‌বার জন্য তারা যেন একটু চিন্তা করেন, যাতে ওরা ছেলেমেয়ে নিয়ে না খেতে পেয়ে না মরে। এবং বোমা পড়ার ভয়ে যারা দৌড়াদৌড়ি, ছুটাছুটি কর্‌ছে, তাদের জন্য যেন ব্যবস্থা করা হয়। এদিকে তারা যেন একটু দৃষ্টি দেন। আর Hindu-Muslim unityর জন্য যে টাকা ধরা হয়েছে—হিন্দু মুসলমানে যে সব জায়গায় দাঙ্গা হয়েছে সেখানে Unity Committeeর throughতে ঐ কাজ কর্‌তে হবে—তাহাদের unityর জন্য যাতে propaganda হয় তার চেষ্টা করা উচিত। আমরা আশা করি, যদিও মন্ত্রিসভা সময় না পাবার দরুণ অনেক কিছু কাজ করতে পারেন নি কিন্তু আগামীতে দেশের গরীব দুঃখী শ্রমিক সম্প্রদায়ের জন্য—আমি যে শ্রমিক সম্প্রদায়কে represent করি—তাদের জন্য কিছু কাজ কর্‌বেন এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে হুঁসিয়ার করে দিচ্ছি—বর্ত্তমানে শ্রমিকদের portfolio যাঁর হাতে আছে—সেটা তাঁর একটু ভালভাবে দেখা দরকার এবং যাতে শ্রমিক সম্প্রদায়ের কাজকর্ম্ম একটু ভালভাবে চলে, সে দিকে তাঁর চিন্তা করা দরকার। আজ শ্রমিক member আমরা যারা রয়েছি—আমরা বুঝ্‌তে পারি না, কার কাছে আবেদন কর্‌ব, কার কাছে যাব। আশা করি Education Ministerএর এ সম্বন্ধে একটু দেখ্‌লে ভাল হয়। আমি আবার Opposition Partyকে বলছি যা বল্‌লাম সেই কথা মনে রেখে তারা যেন হুঁসিয়ার হন এবং তথাকথিত বাইরের লোক এসে যেন বাংলায় আধিপত্য না করে।

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, to address the House at this fag end of the day is a bit discouraging and the other reason for discouragement is that I cannot take the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to task entirely. This budget is not his, but I think the policy behind it is his and the few observations that I may be allowed to make in the House to-day will be with regard to that policy.

Sir, he tells us that he has formed the budget for the "prevention of panic and alarm" but I see that the whole of his budget is developed in panic and alarm of the most depressing character. "The nature of a war budget" must include the civil requirements of the population also. He should realise that war to-day does not mean only the soldier in the field but also the worker in the factory and the worker in the field of agriculture. He has, therefore, to provide and plan the whole economic programme in a manner that would help the progress of war and in particular satisfy the needs of all. "Normal standards of peacetime budgeting" he has given up and he has also given up, what we have been accustomed to call "nation-building activities". I am surprised, Sir, that he considers nation-building as something different from nation-saving. To me nation-building is nation-saving, because unless you prepare your people for Civil Defence no less than Military Defence you will be able to do nothing. He calls us a "non-combatant population" and he seems to be satisfied that he has provided a financial programme for a non-combatant population. I would advise him strongly not to be led away by benedictions showered upon him from the block to my left. Their outlook on our finances is different; their outlook on our ideals is different. We do not feel as they have wanted us to do. We want to build in our own way. It is surprising, it is almost pitiable that in the name of Civil Defence, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has "bid adieu" to the entire nation-building programme of a nation of over 50 million people.

May I, Sir, draw his attention to certain aspects of our political economy which have not received that attention at his hands, which is essential. For instance, we have not only to feed a huge population but also to provide for the fighting forces. I hope he will consider this problem in conjunction with the problem of jute cultivation. For reasons best known to Government, and against good advice, the restriction last year was only to the extent of one-third. It was wrong. It was bad in principle and lacking in foresight; 37 lakhs of acres will give us 125 lakhs of bales of jute. Where are we going to sell this huge output? World markets have contracted and the contraction is growing from day to day. He has told us, that the tax on the sale of raw jute is a "welcome and much-needed addition to the resources of the Government". He will be acting unwisely if he puts the income from it in the common pool for the simple reason that prices of jute are bound to go down. Government will have to come into the market to buy the surplus stock to stabilise prices. If Government is going to become a buyer then this income from the Jute Sales Tax will be a very valuable asset. Consequently, if the Hon'ble the Finance Minister combines his jute policy with the general agricultural policy, and reduces the acreage under jute cultivation to the lowest possible minimum commensurate with the maximum requirements of the mills, he will at once realize that the areas given up by

jute would bocome available for the cutivation of foodstuffs, particularly rice. Saigon and Rangoon are closed to us. We have to produce our normal quantity and also what we used to import. That being so, how are we going to feed our people who were dependent on imported rice. Therefore, my suggestion is decrease the acreage under jute, increase the acreage under foodstuffs and save the people of Bengal if nation-saving has any meaning at all.

There is another aspect of the situation which again he has missed. How are we going to bring the foodstuffs that we need to the centre from the interior? The load on the carrying capacity of the railways has increased considerably. Under certain conditions the railways will become unavailable for non-military purposes. In such circumstances, I would very strongly urge upon the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to call a committee of experts and search for new avenues of transport, to open new roads and waterways. Government should concentrate on the problem of more and more transportation by water throughout Bengal. We cannot sit idle and go on saying that there is a war on and therefore let us spend money on A.R.P. and other Civil Defence measures and the people will feed themselves. That is not what we want.

I know that schemes have been put into operation to keep our working classes at their jobs. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister should have known that there has been an appreciable migration from the cities to the countryside. That will bring about economic dislocation at both ends and, what is worse, it will put a heavier burden on the officers of law and order. Added to that, I doubt if the Hon'ble Minister has been made aware of the terrible condition in which we find the weaving section of our people to-day. Thousands upon thousands are wandering about foodless and penniless. There is a famine in yarn. The Hon'ble Minister has reduced his demand under "Famine", "to the normal precautionary figure of 2½ lakhs", in the expectation that there will be no cyclones or devastating floods this year but the famine conditions prevailing among the weavers of Bengal, demand his immediate attention The advisability of supply of yarn or, failing that, producing our own, has to be studied seriously and these men saved from starvation and annihilation.

It is the duty, even a war-time duty, of the Cabinet to find yarn, both cotton and jute, for these helpless people. If the millowners of Ahmedabad, Bombay and Nagpur cannot supply it, the Government of India should be pressed and the legitimate needs of Bengal provided for, otherwise with labour migrating to the districts and the districts already possessing thousands upon thousands of unemployed men, there is bound to be trouble. If you want to avoid mischief and have peace, please keep men engaged, employed and busy, else you are asking for trouble.

As regai... ...um of 4 crores for Civil Defence, the division is haphazard. "Stirrup-pumps, respirators, helmets and eye-shields" and a thousand and one other articles are going to cost Rs. 49 lakhs while "persons rendered homeless", and definitely foodless, clothless and almost lifeless, are going to get Rs. 15 lakhs. These allocations have to be reconsidered. I know, Sir, the expert is the bane of a Minister. He comes with all the dignity of a demi-god and the result is that the Minister does not use his own judgment. Reconsider the whole division of 4 crores provided for in the budget The commercial community of Calcutta does not look with favour upon it.

Speaking from another angle, I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to the problem of subsidising industries, particularly cottage and minor industries. He himself has repeated in several places in his Financial Statement that "income-tax receipts have improved owing mainly to the expansion of industrial activities." If that is so, for goodness' sake encourage industries, subsidise them and thus increase your income Treat agriculture as an industry for here there will be no Centre to share your revenues.

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

May I have some more time, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will two minutes more be enough?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: A bit longer, Sir, I am now speaking on the economic side of the problem.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go on.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I am trying to be as brief as possible. I shall not take more time than is absolutely necessary.

Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has given up the ghost when he thinks that Rs. 185 lakhs is "heavy borrowing". Bengal produced 10 crores in one week. Why can't he borrow, borrow and borrow? Let him take 5 crores, if need be, and let all that money be put to what he likes to call "nation-saving". Hesitation will lead us nowhere. Borrow and subsidise industry for therein lies the panacea for all our present ailments. You must produce foodstuff and you must produce the other necessities of life. As I have said, the worker in the field is as important as the soldier in the battle-field. I must, I think, curtail my remarks. I was very anxious to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to many aspects of the economic situation to-day which have not received his proper attention.

The next point to which I want to draw his attention is the demand for 2 lakhs for taking under the care of Government the "flotsam" as he has put it, the floating and pavement population of Calcutta. On

behalf of the city, I not only congratulate him, Sir, but I offer him our sincere sentiments of gratitude. The war, if it has not done any good elsewhere will, by the elimination of the beggars and vagrants of Calcutta, from our streets, have done immense good to our city.

There is no provision in the budget for the much-discussed Secondary Education Board, neither is there any indication for the implementing of the recommendations of the Land Revenue Commission. Are we to understand that both these have vanished into thin air never to be heard of again?

The last point I would like to mention is the provision of Rs. 1 lakh for the promotion of communal harmony. The Hon'ble Minister's appeal for communal harmony cannot and should not go unheard. It must touch a responsive chord in the heart of every well-wisher of the country. I wish he had left this part of the job to some one else. Words of such high import from his mouth do not seem to ring true. The realisation has dawned upon him rather late in the day. After four years of thunder and fire, was it the blood of the Bhagalpur martyrs or the agony of the fall of Singapore that created this metamorphosis? We note an equally sudden and astonishing change of outlook in his opposite number, the Leader of the Progressive Party. This change of heart in the twin votaries of discord and disharmony and their transformation into the heavenly twins of accord and harmony would have been welcome to the people of Bengal and not suspect in their eyes, had it not coincided with the charge of Government. Muslim Leaguers do not need appeals to further the cause of harmony for it is one of the fundamentals of their political creed and programme in peace time as well as otherwise. May I repeat to him the old saying "Physician heal thyself" and add "address thy appeals to those thou hast gathered into thy fold"?

The Hon'ble Minister is new to Indian politics. His colossal ignorance of the many Unity Conferences, held over a period of 25 years, appears to be the only apology for the demand of a hundred thousand rupees. Had Gandhiji known that only one lakh of ruppes were going to work the miracle in Bengal, he would have given a crore to spread its beneficial influence all over India. Communal harmony cannot be bought in the market for money.

We on this side of the House have been led to the conclusion that, whatever the designation, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is the *de facto* Prime Minister of Bengal. His word is the law for, among the whole crowd of ex-Leaguers and ex-Congressmen, he alone appears to have acted up to his ideals and gained his cherished objective. I believe he can put an effective check to the vagaries of a disturbed mind driven to desperation. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister *de jure*, actuated by sentiments of anger and revenge generated by his exposure, is out for the blood of those who have exposed him. To appeal for

amity and concord and simultaneously to allow a colleague to run riot with one's good intentions is pitiable. My advice to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will be—"Keep your dummy leader chained to the Presidential Chair of the Council of Ministers. Stop the abuse of the Defence of India Act and the rules made under it. Release the boys imprisoned by him and tell the members of the public services, high and low, that they will interfere with the rights of freedom of speech and freedom of association, of the Muslim section among the citizens of Bengal, at their peril." If these steps are not taken, I assert, with all the vehemence I command, that your pious hopes will bear no fruit. Instead of communal harmony you will get civil commotion. You are asking for trouble and you will get it. In Islam the doors of *tauba*, repentence, are never closed against the penitent and I expect the same theory holds good in regard to *prayashchit*. Let there be a cleansing of hearts. If you mean what you say, go ahead full steam. I assure you we shall watch your efforts and endeavours and experiment with sympathy and genuine friendship, but whatever you do, please do not let the money disappear through the Progressive Party sink, to attract fresh recruits to the army of these so-called upholders of communal harmony or, in the alternative, do not let the amount pass through the hands of doubtful individuals and unknown agencies into channels other than those chalked out by the Finance Department.

I may also recommend that all the items of the budget will require the Hon'ble Finance Minister to sit as the *Shesh nag* on the *dhan* of Bengal. There are avenues through which contractors and particularly the introducers and intermediaries of contractors run away with the money we can ill-afford to spare. I have faith in the Hon'ble the Finance Minister whom I have called the *de facto* Prime Minister of Bengal. Will he save us from these vultures?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. I shall have to accommodate yet four speakers for this day and I hope honourable members will not take more than five minutes each.

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE: ডেপুটী স্পীকার, স্যার, বাংলার অর্থসচিব মহাশয় প্রথমেই সময়ের অভাবের কৈফিয়ৎ দিয়ে সমালোচনার মুখ বন্ধ করে দিয়েছেন। কিন্তু যে রকম সঙ্গীন অবস্থার ভিতর দিয়ে আমরা এখন যাচ্ছি তাতে সময়ের অভাবের কৈফিয়ত বড় কৈফিয়ত নয়। ৬ হপ্তা বা ৮ হপ্তার মধ্যে সমস্ত দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব্ব এশিয়ার মানচিত্র বদ্‌লে যাচ্ছে, তাই এই সময় ৩ হপ্তা বা ৪ হপ্তা বড় অল্প সময় নয়। আজ গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে যে সময়টুকু তাঁরা পেয়েছেন মন্ত্রিত্ব অধিকার করবার পর যদি তাঁরা দল রক্ষা এবং দল পুষ্টির জন্য সেই সময়টুকু ব্যয় না করিয়া সত্যকারের জনসাধারণের মধ্যে আস্থা এবং নিজেদের প্রতি বিশ্বাস এবং ভরসা বাড়াবার চেষ্টায় বেশী সময় নিয়োগ করতেন তাহ'লে পর এই ৩ হপ্তা বা ৪ হপ্তার মধ্যেও তাঁরা নিজেদের

নীতি (Policy) প্রভৃতি স্থির করবার যথেষ্ট সময় পেতেন। কিন্তু এমনি সাধারণভাবে হয়ত তাঁরা বাজেটের ভিতরে বড় পরিবর্ত্তন যে আনতে পারেননি, এজন্য ঐ কৈফিয়তই যথেষ্ট মনে হ'তে পারে এবং সেই কারণে বাজেটের সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ কোরে আলোচনা করবার প্রয়োজন বোধ করেন না। কিন্তু একটী বিষয় আলোচনা কোরে দেখা যায় ট্রেজারী বেঞ্চে যাবার পূর্ব্বে Sales Tax এবং Raw Jute Sales Tax সম্বন্ধে তাঁদের যে যথেষ্ট প্রতিবাদ এবং আপত্তি ছিল আজ আপনাদের হাতে আত্মনিয়ন্ত্রণের ক্ষমতা পাবার পর অন্ততঃ সে সম্বন্ধে প্রতিবাদের বাষ্পটুকু উপে যাওয়াটা আমি মোটেই ভাল বোলে মনে করি না। অর্থসচিবের বক্তৃতার ভিতর দিয়ে শুধু যে এই Sales Tax এবং Raw Jute Sales Tax এর চিরস্থায়িত্বের আভাস পাওয়া যায় তা নয়, এ থেকে যে আমদানী আসচে সেটা উনি কৃতজ্ঞচিত্তে এবং সানন্দচিত্তে গ্রহণ কোরেছেন (Cheers), এবং তাতে কোরে এই বাজেটে deficit না হওয়া সম্বন্ধে যে তাঁকে খানিকটা নিশ্চিন্ততা দিচ্ছে এজন্য আরও বিশেষ রকম আমরা ভয় করতে পারি যে, এ জিনিষ বুঝি চিরস্থায়ী হয়ে গেল। কাল যাঁরা বিরোধী ছিলেন আজ তাঁরা গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে যাবার পরে এই বিল দুটী সম্বন্ধে যাঁরা বিরোধী তাঁদের আজ আর বিরোধিতা করবার কোন কিছু নেই (Cries of "Hear, hear")। সবচেয়ে বড় কথা তিনি বলেছেন যে এই বাজেটটা Nation-saving এবং War budget—দুটো বড় বড় ভুল শব্দ। এর ভিতর দেখ্‌চি ৪ কোটী টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। যখন ব্রিটিশ সাম্রাজ্যের এক দিনের দুই প্রহরের যুদ্ধের খরচ যে টাকা সমস্ত বাংলার—United Kingdom এর সমান প্রকাণ্ড দেশ বাংলা—তার এক বছরের আত্মরক্ষার জন্য খরচ সেই টাকা। এটাকে যদি War Budget বলা হয় এর চেয়ে প্রহসন আর কিছুই নয়, এবং Nation-saving কতটুকু? এই ৪ কোটি টাকার ভিতর ৩ কোটির উপর—মাপ করবেন যদি আমি বলি কতকগুলো মুর্দ্দফরাস নিযুক্ত করা ছাড়া আর কিছুই নাই (Cries of "Hear, hear"), এবং একে যদি বলা হয় Nation-saving তা হলে পরে রোগ-শয্যায় শায়িতকে যদি বলা হয় যে তোমার জন্য খাট এবং ফুল সব এনে রাখা হয়েছে, আর তোমার বাঁচবার ভরসা নেই, একথা বল্‌লে যতখানি সেই রোগশয্যায় শায়িত নিশ্চিন্ত হতে পারে—এই সমস্ত বাঙলা দেশের লোককে যদি বলা হয় যে বোমার আক্রমণ হবার পর থেকে first aid centre করবার জন্য demolition squad করবার জন্য ambulance প্রভৃতির জন্য অর্থাৎ এই সমস্ত মুর্দ্দফরাস বিভাগের কার্য্যের জন্য ৩ কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ কোরে বলা হয় আর তোমাদের চিন্তার কোন কারণ নেই তাহলে পর ঠিক সেই রকম প্রহসনের ব্যাপার দাঁড়ায়। এর ভিতর দেখ্‌তে পাচ্ছি মাত্র ৩০ লক্ষ টাকা shelterএর জন্য খরচ। এই সমস্ত টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে এবং সকল দিক থেকে দেখ্‌তে পাই যে কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টকে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে অনুগৃহীত করবার একটা প্রাণ-পণ চেষ্টা রয়েছে। বিগত ২০০ বছর ব্রিটিশ সাম্রাজ্যের এই ভারতবর্ষকে শাসন করবার একমাত্র অজুহাত ছিল এই যে তিনি বিদেশীর আক্রমণ থেকে ভারতবর্ষকে রক্ষা করবেন এই অজুহাতে তিনি অনুগ্রহপূর্ব্বক এদেশে বাস কোরে গেছেন। আজ যখন সত্য সত্যই সেই সময় এসেছে—যখন বঙ্গীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রয়োজন হচ্চে তখন দরকার হ'লে পর শত কোটি যা তার চেয়েও বেশী অর্থ কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট দিক্ এবং কেন্দ্রীয়

গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রয়োজন হ'লে পর ব্রিটিশ সাম্রাজ্যের কাছ থেকে এই টাকা আদায় কোরে নিক্। অর্থের অভাব, financial stringency ব্রিটিশের মুখে আজ খাটে না। আজ তাদের ঘটেছে যুদ্ধের উপকরণের অভাব; কিন্তু বাংলা দেশকে শুধু air raid থেকে বাঁচাতে গেলে প্রয়োজন হয়েছে খানিকটা টাকা কড়ি দিয়ে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে air raid shelter প্রভৃতি প্রস্তুত কর্‌তে হবে। যেখানে খানিকটা অর্থানুকূল্য চাই এবং ঠিক যখন দেখ্‌তে পাচ্ছি যে ৮৭॥৵ % দিতে বাধ্য কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট ঠিক সেখানে এসে আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহাশয় হাঁপিয়ে পড়েছেন ব্যবস্থা কর্‌তে। যদি shelter প্রভৃতির বরাদ্দের কাজে আর এক কোটি টাকা বাংলার বাজেট দিত—এই war budgetএ তাহলে কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাধ্য হত আর ৭ কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ কর্‌তে। ২ কোটি টাকা যদি কেটে বার করত তাহলে পর বাধ্য হ'ত তারা ১৪ কোটি টাকা বাংলাকে দেবার জন্যে। এ অবস্থায় আমি অন্ততঃ মনে করি যে হয় উচিত ছিল তাঁদের এক পয়সা ব্যয় না করা—আর যদি কর্‌তে হয় একটা সুচিন্তিত পরিকল্পনা থাকা উচিত ছিল, যে যদি সত্যই air raid হয় তবে তা থেকে protection বাংলা দেশের কটা জেলাকে দিতে পারে তার সুচিন্তিত পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী যে অর্থের প্রয়োজন হ'ত সেই টাকা যেমন কোরে হউক বাংলার বাজেটে বরাদ্দ কোরলে কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের ১৩ বা ১৪ কোটি টাকা এ সম্বন্ধে দিতে হ'ত। তাহলে পর দেখা যেত যে বাংলা দেশকে রক্ষা করা সম্বন্ধে তারা কি রকম সজাগ আছে। আজ পর্য্যন্ত এই ব্যাপারে আমরা দেখতে পেয়েছি যে গভর্ণমেণ্টের তরফ থেকে কোন সময় বৃথা আশ্বাস দেওয়া, নয় মিথ্যা স্তোক দেওয়া এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে খানিকটা অমূলক আশঙ্কা প্রচার করা—এ করা ছাড়া আর কোন প্রকারে জনসাধারণের morale তাদের মানসিক শক্তিকে রক্ষা করবার জন্য কোন চেষ্টা হয় নি। বৃথাই জানুয়ারী মাসে সমস্ত স্কুল এবং কলেজগুলো বন্ধ কোরে দেওয়া হল, বৃথাই সমস্ত কলিকাতার লোককে মাস দুই তিন আগে চলে যাবার কথা বলে দেওয়া হ'ল। অথচ তার ফলে যাঁরা বাহিরে গিয়েছেন তাঁরাও নানাপ্রকারে নির্য্যাতিত এবং কলিকাতা অধিবাসীদের অসুবিধার সীমা-পরিসীমা নাই। আর যে সময় সত্য সত্যই বিপদ আসবার সম্ভাবনা থাক্‌বে তখন হয়ত দেখা যাবে যে অনেকে যাঁরা কলিকাতা থেকে চলে গিয়েছিলেন তাঁরা আবার প্রত্যাগত হয়েছেন। এ অবস্থায় বুঝ্‌তে পারা যায় যে যখন সাধারণ layman বুঝ্‌তে পেরেছিল যে বাস্তবিক কলিকাতায় মার্চ্চ মাসের পূর্ব্বে আশঙ্কা নাই তখন সত্যকার যে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট—যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে বিশ্বাস করে না—সে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট সত্য অবস্থা জানাননি; এতে বল্‌তে হয় তাঁদের সত্যপ্রিয়তায় আস্থা নাই, আমাদের মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে তাদের বিশ্বাসভাজন হ'তে পারেন নি। নইলে লোকদিগকে বৃথা আতঙ্কগ্রস্ত করার কোন প্রয়োজন হয় নি এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বৃথা স্তোক বাক্য দিবার প্রয়োজন ছিল না। যখন তাঁরা স্কুল কলেজের কর্ত্তৃপক্ষকে একথা জানাতে পারলেন যে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে air raid protection না নেবার পূর্ব্বে তাঁরা স্কুল কলেজ খুল্‌তে পারেন না তখন তাঁরা কি সঙ্গে সঙ্গে কল কারখানা ফ্যাক্টরীর উপর নজর দিয়েছিলেন? দেখেছিলেন কি ফ্যাক্টরীর মালিকেরা সেখানে হাজার হাজার কল-কারখানার শ্রমিকদের রক্ষার জন্য যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে air raid shelter এবং অন্যান্য

protection নিয়েছিলেন কি না, এবং যদি না নিয়ে থাকেন তাহলে তাদের বাধ্য কোরেছেন কি না সেই সমস্ত ফ্যাক্টরী এক মাস দু মাস বন্ধ করবার জন্য? তারপর যখন সেই অঞ্চলের শ্রমিকরা অত্যন্ত ন্যায্য দাবী নিয়ে চলেছে, কতকগুলো air raid shelter এর ন্যায্য দাবী তারা জানিয়েছে এবং যুদ্ধের সময় তারা বিপদে কাতর হয়ে পালাবে না এই প্রতিজ্ঞা কোরে যখন তারা সামনে এগিয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে সেই সময় দেখ্‌তে পাই, কর্তৃপক্ষের তরফ থেকে, এই শ্রমিকদের আন্দোলন ও বিক্ষোভের প্রতি চিরাচরিত প্রথা চলেছে; আজও সেখানে সেই প্রথায় দমন চলে আস্‌ছে। আজ এঁরা চেয়েছেন কো-অপারেশন জনসাধারণের। কিন্তু জনসাধারণের কো-অপারেশন কি দমন এবং শাসনের ভিতর দিয়ে আস্‌তে পারে? আজ পর্য্যন্ত (আমি অন্যান্য পার্টির কথা জানি না কিন্তু) একটা পার্টি—কমিউনিষ্ট পার্টি এবং তাদের সঙ্গে একমতাবলম্বী বহু পার্টি সম্পূর্ণভাবে এই যুদ্ধে যোগদানের সমর্থন কোরে আস্‌ছে কিন্তু এখনও পর্য্যন্ত গভর্ণমেণ্টের দমন এবং শাসন তাদের প্রতি পূর্ব্বাপেক্ষা এতটুকু শিথিল হয় নি। আজও নানাভাবে তাদের প্রতি দমননীতির প্রয়োগ চলেছে। আমি মনে করি এই নিয়মে কোন প্রকার কো-অপারেশন পাওয়া যায় না।

(At this stage, Mr. Dhirendra Nath Sen rose to speak.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sen, I hope you will finish within five minutes.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister on the budget that he has presented before the House. He had to face a situation which, to quote his own words, "is without parallel in the history of our country". Our resources are limited, but the need for civil defence is great. The compromise which the Finance Minister has effected between these two extremes is admirable. There are, as is naturally to be expected, no grandiose schemes for nation-building services. We cannot blame the Hon'ble Finance Minister for this. When the war is raging next to our door every little penny must be saved and pooled to protect our civilian population. That is all that the Provincial Government can do.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has told us that there will be a deficit of 1 crore and 5 lakhs on the Revenue Account. The deficit is no doubt accountable, in a very large measure, to the huge increase of expenditure for civil defence.

The arrangement which has been arrived at with the Central Government in regard to the expenditure on civil defence undoutedly reduces the relative burden of the Provincial Government. But we cannot help feeling and feeling very strongly that the deficit on the Revenue Account would have been considerably lighter had we got our fair share of the income-tax. The Niemeyer Award arranged for the distribution of income-tax receipts in the following way. Fifty

per cent. of the total receipts from personal income-tax was distributable to the provinces provided the receipts from income-tax plus the railway contribution came up to 13 crores. If it was less than 13 crores the deficiency was deducted from the 50 per cent. of the receipts of personal income-tax distributable to the provinces. Conditions have, however, changed considerably since the days of Sir Otto Niemeyer. Income-tax receipts have soared up very high, thanks to the stimulus received by the industries due to the war. The railway contribution has also increased as a result of increasing revenue receipts from the railways This year the railways will be enjoying a surplus of 28 crores Yet the Central Government is deducting a big slab of a flat sum of Rs. 4½ crores from the 50 per cent. of the income-tax receipts payable to the provinces. In the case of Bengal, the question of our legitimate share of income-tax gathers a fresh emphasis since our receipt of jute export duty has been declining progressively as a result of the war. I know that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has no hand in the matter as to how these income-tax receipts will be doled out in a particular way. Due allowance must also be made for the fact that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has been in office only for the last two months. But I would like to point out to him, not as a critic but as one trying to help him, that the need for making strong representations on the matter before the Central Government has become more imperative and urgent. I should also like to emphasise the need for economy in regard to expenditure on general administration. I know that the present Ministry is shouldering the legacy of the past for this. But I hope that in the coming year they will spare no efforts towards this end. Ruthless elimination of all waste and extravagance is one of the strongest bulwarks against the gigantic external menace which faces us to-day. I am glad to note that the present Ministry is not emulating the example of their predecessor in the matter of going up to the heights of Darjeeling to refresh their hard-worked mind and body.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of expenditure, I have no mind to criticise expenditure on civil defence. On the contrary, I wholeheartedly support the enormity of this grant which has reached the classical figure of Rs. 4 crores and odd. The grant of 30 lakhs for shelters is a welcome item. I hope the contractors for the work will be well-chosen and their work properly supervised. We are very badly in need of strong shelters. I must frankly say that the past Ministry has left us in the lurch as regards this. But, Sir, I must confess that I am a little disappointed and in fact frightened to find no particular provision for the protection of trade, industry and commerce. Bengal and specially our city has of late developed into an industrialised province. There are a large number of major industries and hundreds of small ones employing a very considerable amout of labour all around us. I do not propose to bore the House with the relevant

figures and statistics. They require for their survival and prosperity a steady flow of raw materials, a large fund of fearless labour and an uninterrupted facility for quick and speedy transportation of their finished products. Any infliction of war, say an air-raid or a nuisance raid, whatever you may call it, may very readily paralyse these three vital arteries of their life.

(Here the member, having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in rising to examine the budget estimates of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, I do not for a moment forget the fundamental fact that this is an emergency budget, and to be more precise, a war budget. If we remember this background and examine the provisions against it, I do not think we can possibly have many things to speak against its general framework. This complexion of the budget is unmistakable and while criticising the provisions we are handicapped by the fact that much of the funds provided is meant for meeting the needs of the present emergent condition. We are, however, thankful to Dr. Mookerjee that he has been bold enough to provide sufficient money for civil defence purposes and other protective measures. We only hope that the money provided would be judiciously spent so that the usual practice of throwing good money away to bad cause would not tarnish the fair name of the present administration.

It will appear, Sir, that a very large part of the money provided for civil defence goes towards the cost of establishment of A. R. P. personnel. But so far as my information goes the Government are pursuing a wrong policy in selecting the personnel which, it is well known, is full of superannuated officials so long enjoying the peace of pensioned life. I strongly urge upon the Government to stop this policy and to enlist the services of younger men. Further I am of opinion that fancy salaries are being paid to the A. R. P. staff and that for certain posts two efficient persons can easily be secured with the large salary that is given to one.

Sir, I cannot however forget that the governing note of the budget provisions is the greater importance attached to the urban interests as opposed to the rural. There can be no more wrong policy in a country where villages form the foundations of economic life. The impression that Government are more anxious for cities and towns than for the dumb millions who live and toil in the villages should not be allowed to grow; for, needless to say, the countryside has welcomed the present Ministry as a peoples' Government consisting of the natural leader of the people. I may, in this connection, point out that owing to mass evacuation from Calcutta to the countryside, greater responsibilities now devolve upon the mufassil towns in the matter of providing for

the amenities of life and protection for security. Many towns in the mufassil require for instance larger number of beds in hospitals; many require larger police force; and most of all, the mufassil area requires that local officials should take the non-official public more into confidence and secure their enthusiastic and willing co-operation in respect of measures of public security. What therefore I would emphasise is that, should danger befall us, the risk of the countryside is as real as in the cities and people in the countryside have to lose as much as people under the sky of the city. While I say this I do not forget for a moment that in a vast country like ours it is not possible to secure safety and provide for defence measures of hearths and homes only through the Government machinery; what is of equal importance is larger non-official and public co-operation. For bringing about a wholesome atmosphere of public support in matters of civil defence, what is of utmost importance therefore is a change in the attitude of the officials in the interior so that they may learn the wisdom of shaking off official outlook and taking up the task of providing for protective measures in the spirit of service. Unless there is perfect accord between the officials and the people in the interior of the province and mistrust and misunderstanding removed, I do not think the enthusiasm necessary for work in these trying times, would be forthcoming from either side. I therefore think the Government should forthwith ask the officials, particularly in the mufassil, to invite public co-operation in matters of civil defence to a much larger extent. Let it not be understood by the mufassil public that civil defence and police work are one and the same thing.

For the spread of primary education, Rs. 5 lakhs have been provided in pursuance of the policy initiated a few years ago. This is welcome no doubt, but I may point out that these funds should be spent with greater care and with a greater sense of responsibility by those who are placed in charge of the scheme, for reports are often received regarding their wastage and inefficient spending. Economy of spending is essential for thereby more funds may be available for the purpose of spreading education throughout the areas.

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to continue for one minute more.)

What I mean is that in many areas, Mymensingh for instance, much money is wasted on non-essential items or through defective purchase of office equipments and all that.

The provision of one and a half lakhs for the advancement of the education of the members of Scheduled Castes is also welcome, but in this case I should say that the sum is inadequate for experience has shown that the special officer appointed to supervise the work cannot meet the urgent demands from different parts of the country. The needs of the Scheduled Caste boys are increasing day by day and it

would be very appropriate if more funds were allotted for the purpose, and recurring monthly grant-in-aid to middle English and high English schools are urgently required.

The provision of a sum of Rs. 1 lakh in order to promote communal harmony has really been a timely measure and I am glad that my suggestion so often repeated in the press has been accepted by the Cabinet. The Punjáb Government gave the lead and now the move taken by the Bengal Government will be very much appreciated all over the country. Communal bickerings have been the very canker of our social life in Bengal and if a well thought-out programme and scheme is formulated and worked in an appropriate manner, there is no reason why the relations between the two communities should not be cordial and healthy. The Government have had to spend quite large sums for the unfortunate communal riots at Dacca and it is therefore very desirable that we should adopt healthy measures to eliminate the possibility of the recurrence of such events in Bengal. My friend Mr. Abdul Hamid of the Opposition contended in this House——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Adjournment.

It being 12-5 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 8-30 a.m. on Tuesday, the 24th February, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 24th February, 1942, at 8-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 7 Hon'ble Ministers and 205 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Notice issued by District Magistrate of Noakhali.

***63. Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether the District Magistrate of Noakhali had issued any notice, dated the 16th January, 1942, published in the Mill Press regarding reception to some of the Hon'ble Ministers?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a copy of the notice in question?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME and PUBLICITY DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A copy has been placed on the Library Table.

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any instruction was given by the Government to the District Magistrate to issue such notice?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No.

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government approve of the action of the District Magistrate in issuing such notice?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is too vague a question for me to answer.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he issued any direction to the District Magistrate to issue a notice like this?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have already said "no".

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the District Magistrate had externed and interned persons who expressed their willingness to violate that notice?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has taken any action regarding the issue of this notice by the District Magistrate?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not see anything criminal in this notice.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: It appears from the notice which I shall read——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question? Please put your question first.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: My question is this, Sir. It appears from the notice that if anybody does not join the reception of the Hon'ble Minister and his colleagues, he will be dealt with under the Emergency Act. That is the notice. That is why I want to read——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the question? Please put the question first.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: It appears that the District Magistrate enjoined all to accord reception to the Hon'ble Minister and his colleagues. He also says that if anybody does anything in violation of that, he will be dealt with under the Emergency Act. That is why I am putting the question whether it is the policy of the Government that anybody who does not give any reception to the Hon'ble Ministers on their visit to any particular locality will be dealt with under the Emergency Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The honourable member's knowledge of Bengali is extremely defective. The notice does not say anything of that kind. As regards the question itself, the Ministers do not care two brass buttons if they are given any reception or not.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The question is whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister justifies the action of the District Magistrate in issuing a notice which is practically a command on the people to come and receive the Ministers?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Out of courtesy to Sir Nazimuddin, I shall read one or two sentences from the report which has been submitted by the District Magistrate in obedience to my desire that the whole matter should be placed before me. He says "My warning notice (copy enclosed) on the eve of the Chief Minister's visit to Noakhali has unfortunately been misunderstood. The occasion for this warning notice was the issuing of leaflets immediately preceding the dates of the visit by one Maulvi Majubur Rahman who distributed broadcast inciting the Muslim masses by appealing to their communal passions asking them to observe collective *hartal* and show disrespect to the Ministers by hostile demonstrations. I considered that this action would lead to a breach of the peace and I considered it my duty to issue the notice which I did." As regards the question put by Sir Nazimuddin I may tell him that I strongly deprecate action on the part of District Magistrates to go out of their way to organise receptions in favour of the Ministers and he will be glad to hear that I have personally written letters to all the District Magistrates not to indulge in matters of this kind.

Officers under Forest and Excise Department.

***64. Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department be pleased to state, class by class,—

(*a*) the present number of officers other than clerks in the Forest Department in the Province;

(*b*) the number of—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Scheduled Castes, and

(3) Caste Hindus,

amongst them; and

(*c*) the number of such officers appointed on permanent basis since 1st April, 1938, from—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Scheduled Castes, and

(3) Caste Hindus?

MINISTER in charge of the FOREST and EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath Barman): A statement furnishing the required information is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 64.

(*a*) The present number of officers other than clerks in the Forest Department in the Province of Bengal—

Imperial Forest Service Officers	...	16
Bengal Forest Service (New)	...	9
Bengal Provincial Forest Service (Old)	...	5
Subordinate Forest Officers (permanent)	...	223
Subordinate Forest Officers (temporary)	...	138

(*b*) The number of (1) Muslims, (2) Scheduled Castes and (3) Caste Hindus among them—

Imperial Forest Service Officers—

Muslim	...	1
Scheduled Castes	...	Nil.
Caste Hindus	...	5

Bengal Forest Service Officers (New)—

Muslims	...	2
Scheduled Castes	...	Nil.
Caste Hindus	...	6

Bengal Provincial Forest Service Officers (Old)—

Muslim	...	1
Scheduled Castes	...	Nil.
Caste Hindus	...	4

Subordinate Forest Officers (permanent)—

Muslims	...	46
Scheduled Castes	...	10
Caste Hindus	...	159

Subordinate Forest Officers (temporary)—

Muslims	...	61
Scheduled Castes	...	13
Caste Hindus	...	57

(c) The number of such officers appointed on permanent basis since 1st April, 1938, from (1) Muslims, (2) Scheduled Castes and (3) Caste Hindus—

Imperial Forest Service Officers—		
Muslims	....	Nil.
Scheduled Castes	...	Nil.
Caste Hindus	...	Nil.
Bengal Forest Service Officers (New)—		
Muslim	...	1
Scheduled Castes	...	Nil.
Caste Hindus	...	1
Bengal Provincial Forest Service Officers (Old)—		
Muslims	..	Nil.
Scheduled Castes	...	Nil.
Caste Hindus	...	Nil.
Subordinate Forest Officers (permanent)—		
Muslims	...	10
Scheduled Castes	...	Nil.
Caste Hindus	...	13
Subordinate Forest Officers (temporary)—		
Muslims	...	42
Scheduled Castes	...	7
Caste Hindus	...	34

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for the paucity of Scheduled Caste officers in the Department?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can he say that?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: This is a compilation of figures from the beginning of the services.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he is taking since he has found that the ratio of appointments given to the Scheduled Castes has been very much lower than what has been decided by the Communal Ratio Rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I presume that the honourable member is referring to answer (c).

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: That shows the number of officers in the service after the Communal Ratio Rules have been brought into force.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: When the number is not according to the ratio fixed for the Scheduled Castes community, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he is taking to fill up the deficiency in the number since he has taken up the office?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: As regards action to be taken, certainly it will be done according to the Communal Ratio Rules.

Abolition of local boards in Jessore district.

***65. Maulvi SERAJUL ISLAM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether the local boards of the district of Jessore have been totally abolished?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the next direct election to the Jessore District Board will take place; and

(*ii*) when delimitation of new constituencies will be taken up in the said district?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The local officers have been asked to formulate delimitation proposal and to submit the same to Government. On receipt of the proposal, it will be examined and order will be issued as expeditiously as possible. General election will be held after orders regarding the delimitation of constituencies are issued.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of asking the respective officers concerned to consult the local M.L.A.'s in the formulation of proposals for the delimitation of constituencies?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I shall certainly do so.

Settling of toddy shops in Barrackpore Circle.

*71. **Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department be pleased to state what is the procedure adopted in settling the *tari* shops of the Barrackpore Circle of 24-Parganas?

(*b*) Whether the same procedure was followed this year?

(*c*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: (*a*) The shops are normally settled by auction.

(*b*) and (*c*) No. Very serious irregularities were discovered in the settlements that had been made in the previous two years, and special arrangements were therefore made to secure vendors unconnected with the previous vendors.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the shops are settled by public auction, whether vendors unconnected with previous vendors would not be available?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: There was no certainty about that, because if this settlement be made by public auction, certainly then the highest bidder must be accepted.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the quotations of last year as well as of this year in connection with the settlement of the *tari* shops?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I ask for notice.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the allotment made this year is less than that of the previous year?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I do not quite understand the question. But if by the word "allotment" he means the license fees I am in a position to say that so far as license fees are concerned, the amount is less than those in previous years, but as regards the total revenue it will not be less because by the present settlement we expect much more from the tree tax.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, if the license fee is less, how is it possible that the revenue will be more than that of the previous year?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: There are two sources of revenue, first the license fees for *tari* shops and next the tree tax. Each shop has to pay a certain amount as license fee but the tree tax which is quite a different thing is levied on the trees that are operated upon. Rupees three is paid for each tree and this year we have settled the shops with trusted vendors and we expect that as there will be no evasion of the fees and that every tree operated upon will be actually taxed, the revenue will be more than in previous years.

Detention of certain persons as security prisoners under the Defence of India Rules.

*72. **Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Babus Sushil Chandra Bhattacharya, son of the late Girish Chandra Bhattacharya, of village Chunta, police-station Sarial, district Tippera, and Satyendra Nath Banerjee, son of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, of Ticatully, Dacca, have been arrested respectively at Allahabad and Benares; and

(*ii*) that they have been detained as security prisoners under the Defence of India Rules at the instance of the Government of Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) where they are being detained now; and

(*ii*) in what division they have been classified?

(*c*) If they are being detained outside the Province, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of getting them transferred to Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) and (*c*) No.

(*b*) (*i*) Fatehgarh Central Prison.

(*ii*) Class I.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the question of getting the Bengalee prisoners transferred from other provinces to Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I may tell the House that Sushil Chandra Bhattacharya has been detained as a security prisoner under the orders of the U. P. Government; and Satyendra Nath Banerjee was arrested by the U. P. police and action has been taken by that Government for his detention also as a security prisoner. The whole question is now being considered by all the Provincial Governments, and I regret I cannot at the present moment give any definite answer.

Banning of religious processions with music before public worship places.

***73. Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether any circular has been issued to district officials prohibiting music at all hours of the day before all public places of worship?

(*b*) If so, when was it issued and why?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a new condition has been inserted in all licences for processions to stop music before mosques and other public places of worship at all hours of the day?

(*d*) Is it a fact that this condition is also imposed in cases of religious processions?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether Hindus in Dinajpur town were compelled to abandon their Kalitala *Chabbish Prahar Nagar Kirtan* in Chaitra last, as they found it impossible to observe this condition;

(*ii*) whether a similar religious procession in Dinajpur town had to be abandoned on the 1st Baisakh last; and

(*iii*) whether these religious processions have been important annual celebrations of the Hindus of the town for many years past?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the abandonment of these processions has been causing discontent amongst Hindus and communal unrest in the town?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes to take for the deletion of the new condition in the licence for religious processions?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, these answers were prepared by my friend Sir Nazimuddin and I have adopted them as mine.

(*a*) The honourable member is referred to the answer to clause (*c*) of starred question No. 65 delivered in this House on the 8th September, 1941.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) No, the condition has always been included in the prescribed form of licence.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) (*i*) No. Their leaders had agreed to and had in fact proposed the condition included, and they succeeded in preventing the procession when they found a number of Hindus unwilling to abide by it.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) The Kalitala *Chabbish Prahar Nagar Sankirtan* appears to have been held for many years.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) None: the condition moreover is not new.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRY: Is it a fact that the Hindus are being asked to prove that they have a customary right to play music before mosques whether the Muslims object to such music or not?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Asked by whom?

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRY: By the district authorities, according to the circular issued by the last Ministry.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think no reply is necessary.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has said that he has adopted the reply prepared by the ex-Home Minister. May I know if there is any deviation from the policy of the former Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No, no.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this policy has been deviated from in Mymensingh?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware, but I am told that the District Magistrate on his own responsibility and in consultation with the leaders of both the communities had allowed the procession along the route which was not allowed before. This would be in contravention of the policy which has been adopted by Government up till now. The District Magistrate did it on his own responsibility

and in accordance with the decision arrived at in consultation with local leaders. The whole question is being considered, and I hope a satisfactory solution will be arrived at so that these disputes will not arise in future.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the statement issued by the Muslim leaders strongly repudiating the statement made by the Chief Minister on the floor of the House that anything which was done in respect of the taking out of that procession was done with their consent?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: My attention has not been drawn. If anybody has suggested that it was done at my instance with my knowledge, consent or connivance, it is maliciously false; it is a propaganda against me and nothing else.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has in his possession a representation of the Muslim leaders of Mymensingh protesting against the taking out of such a procession?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I was out on tour. (Laughter from the Muslim League Benches.) This is no question of merry-making. I was out on tour on the 22nd, the date on which the immersion was to take place. On my return to Calcutta I received a telegram to the effect that Muslims are very much agitated against the orders that had been passed by the District Magistrate. I spoke to him over telephone and he said, "Although there is some agitation the majority of the leaders of both the communities have agreed to the decision I have arrived at." (A VOICE FROM THE MUSLIM LEAGUE BENCHES: This is false.) It may be false, but that is what the District Magistrate told me. Then in the afternoon I rang him up again and he said that everything passed off smoothly. I personally very much regret that the District Magistrate should have taken upon himself the responsibility of making a deviation which was hurtful to the feelings of Muslims.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government supplied two elephants for the Mymensingh procession or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I possess no elephants.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the procession was taken out under the protection of the Government armed forces and the whole area was guarded by barbed wire?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I asked the District Magistrate when he came to Calcutta on transfer and he told me that there were police forces and various strong forces indeed.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: And barbed wire also?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Everything. I asked him why he did it. He said, "I did it in order to prevent any breach of the peace", but there was no indication that it was resented by anybody at the time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, may I put one question more?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it has been sufficiently discussed.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it permissible in the House to say that all the Government elephants have now been transferred to the Opposition? (Laughter.)

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: There is one elephant with you!

Hostel for post-graduate students.

***74. Maulvi M. MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that there is no Muslim Government Hostel for the post-graduate students in Calcutta?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION, COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): (*a*) Yes: but there is one under the University of Calcutta which was built with Government money.

(*b*) The number of Muslim students reading in the Post-Graduate Department of the Presidency College does not warrant the establishment of any separate hostel for them. There is, however, arrangement for accommodation of these students in the Carmichael Hostel.

Maulvi M DDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the number of students reading in the Post-graduate Department?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: What is the accommodation of the one hostel under the University of Calcutta which was built with Government money?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: There is sufficient accommodation in the Carmichael Hostel.

Medical officers (honorary) attached to two hospitals.

***76. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of medical officers (honorary) who are attached to two Government hospitals at the same time; and

(*ii*) their hours of attendance in each hospital?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of abolishing the system of allowing one doctor the benefits of hospital service in more than one Government hospital?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*b*) No; this is not considered necessary so long as the hours of work of an officer in different hospitals do not clash.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 76.

Serial No.	Name of the Honorary Doctor.	Name of the Hospitals.	Designation of the post held in each hospital.	Hours of attendance in each hospital.
	Dr. J. M. Modak ..	(1) Voluntary Venereal Hospital, Alipore.	(1) Honorary Physician ..	(1) Tuesdays and Fridays between 8 and 10 a.m.
		(2) Campbell Medical School and Hospital, Calcutta.	(2) Honorary Visiting Surgeon to Venereal Diseases Out-patients Department.	(2) Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	Lt.-Col. J. A. Shorten, I.M.S. (retired).	(1) Presidency General Hospital	(1) Honorary Radiologist ..	(1) Attends on Monday and Thursday mornings from roughly 8-30 to 10-30 a.m. and sometimes later. Again returns on these days at 12 noon to do routine office work and to attend to any special cases. He also attends at any time when any urgent case needs his services. Devotes about an hour every evening in reporting on the films taken in the hospital.
		(2) School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta.	(2) Honorary Radiologist and Lecturer in Radiology to Post-Graduate students at the School of Tropical Medicine.	(2) No special days allotted in the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. Attends 2 or 3 times a week and spends some considerable time there. In addition to this, as at the Presidency General Hospital, he spends some time nearly every day in reporting on the routine work. He also gives courses of lectures in Radiology to Post-Graduate students at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta.

3	Dr. Sourin Ghosh, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).	(1) Sambhunath Pandit Hospital, Bhowanipore.	(1) Honorary Surgeon ..	(1) Every day from 10-45 a.m. till the work is finished.
		(2) Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta.	(2) Honorary Clinical Tutor, Venereal Department.	(2) Every day from 8 a.m. to 10-30 a.m.
4	Dr. J. C. Banerjee ..	(1) Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta.	(1) Honorary Junior Visiting Physician to the Professor of Medicine, Medical College, Calcutta.	(1) Every day from 8 a.m. in the morning till the work is finished.
		(2) General Hospital, Howrah ..	(2) Visiting Physician ..	(2) Every day from 12 noon to 2 p.m.
5	Dr. G. Galstaun ..	(1) Medical College, Calcutta ..	(1) Professor of Radiology, Medical College, Calcutta.	(1) Every day from 8 a.m. in the morning till the work is finished.
		(2) Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta.	....	*(2) Between 8 and 9 a.m. and 12 noon and 1 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays.
		(3) School of Tropical Medicine	....	*(3) Not fixed.

*Dr. Galstaun is not attached to any other Government hospital but he acts for his partner Col. J. A. Shorten, I.M.S. (retired), at the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta, and at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, when the latter goes on leave.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the statement printed overleaf—items No. 2—Lt.-Col. J. A. Shorten, No. 3—Dr. Sourin Ghosh, No. 4—Dr. J. C. Banerjee and No. 5—Dr. G. Galstaun and to the corresponding entries about the hours of work in the last column which go to show that all these officers have overlapping hours of duty? The Hon'ble Minister will be pleased to find that against Lt.-Col. Shorten it is stated that he has to attend on Monday and Thursday mornings from 8-30 to 10-30 and sometimes later, again returns at 12 noon to do routine office work and has again to come in the evening to report on the films taken. Although he has no special days allotted, he has also to attend two to three times a week in the School of Tropical Medicine and in the Presidency General Hospital he spends some time nearly every day in reporting on the routine work. That shows that nearly every day he has got to do work at two places almost simultaneously on some days. That is about No. 1. As regards No. 2—Dr. Sourin Ghosh—it is stated that he has hours of work every day from 8 to 10-30 in the Medical College Hospitals and he has got hours of duty from 10-45 till the work is finished at the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital. Obviously the work of the Medical College Hospitals, as the Hon'ble Minister knows, does not begin at 8 a.m. and cannot be finished by 10-30. I was just wondering if the attention of the Hon'ble Minister has been drawn to this state of affairs which goes to show that the incumbents Nos. 2 and 4 have got duties simultaneously overlapping.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I do not at present concede that the hours do overlap, but there is room for scrutiny, I agree.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the case of Dr. Galstaun which is much worse? He has got to attend every day from 8 a.m. in the morning till the work is finished and again he has got to attend the Presidency General Hospital between 8 and 9 and 12 noon and 1 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays and these two hospitals are situated at a distance of more than two miles. It is stated that he is a partner of Col. Shorten and as he is a partner in the medical profession he has the right to take part in the work of another hospital. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to this state of affairs?

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Sir, may I rise on a point of information? Dr. Galstaun has been in the military service for the past 6 months and is not in Calcutta.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Dr. Galstaun is at the moment nowhere near the Medical College or anywhere in Calcutta. He is on military duty now and his case was put in at the time when the statement was prepared.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the case of Dr. J. C. Banerjee? It is stated that he has to work every day at the Medical College Hospitals and also at the Howrah General Hospital. It is stated that his duty at the Medical College Hospitals begins from 8 a.m. and his duty at the Howrah General Hospital begins from 12 noon. Will the Hon'ble Minister please enquire or find out if these two duties overlap as it is understood that work in the Howrah General Hospital also begins in the morning and the work in the Medical College Hospitals cannot be finished before 11-30?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: So far as it appears now, there is no overlapping, but if there is any such apprehension, I shall certainly look into it.

Staff of the Wakf Office, Calcutta.

*77. **Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the—

(1) names,

(2) number,

(3) qualifications,

(4) salary, and

(5) home district

of each of the officers, clerks and typists at present existing in the Wakf Office at Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: A statement furnishing the particulars is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 77.

Designation.	No.	Names.	Qualification.	Salary.	Home district.
				Rs.	
Assistant Commissioner ..	1	Khan Sahib Maulvi N. Hossain ..	Retired Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	215	Nadia.
Personal Assistant to Commissioner.	1	Maulvi M. Shaukat Ali ..	B.A., B.L.	160	24-Parganas.
Legal Adviser ..	1	Khan Sahib Maulvi Abul Quasem, M.L.C.	M.A., B.L.	100	Khulna.
Superintendent ..	1	Maulvi Syed Shahedullah ..	B.A.	90	Burdwan.
Accountant ..	1	Maulvi M. A. Huq (from Accountant-General, Bengal).	B.A.	92½	Rajshahi.
Inspectors ..	8	(1) Maulvi H. Rahman, I ..	B L.	83	Bogra.
		(2) Maulvi Haji N. Ahmed ..	B.L.	83	Murshidabad.
		(3) Maulvi M. Ahmed ..	B.Sc.	83	Nadia.
		(4) Maulvi B. W. M. Abdur Rahman	B.Sc.	83	Khulna.
		(5) Maulvi Quazi Abdul Bari ..	M.A., B.L.	83	Jessore.
		(6) Maulvi Nuruzzaman Khan ..	B.A.	83	Bakarganj.
		(7) Maulvi H. Rahman, II ..	Home Education ..	75	Dinajpur.
		(8) Maulvi Ahmadur Rahman ..	B.L.	75	Chittagong.
Auditors ..	10	(1) Maulvi Abdul Mannan ..	B.A.	54	Noakhali.
		(2) Maulvi Raisuddin Khan ..	B.A.	54	Dacca.

Auditors	..		(3) Maulvi Abdul Ghani Chowdhury ..	B.A.	54	Noakhali.
			(4) Maulvi Siddiqullah ..	I.A.	54	Ditto.
			(5) Maulvi Serajul Huq ..	B.A.	50	Faridpur.
			(6) Maulvi Md. Sultan .	Matriculate	50	Burdwan.
			(7) Maulvi Mirza Murtaza Ali .	B.A.	50	Mymensingh.
			(8) Maulvi Abdul Qawi ..	Matriculate	50	Calcutta.
			(9) and (10) Vacant .	(Appointment will be made very soon.)		
Cashier	..	1	Maulvi Gholam Kuddus ..	Non-Matriculate. He has got 15 years' previous experience.	82	Bakarganj.
Stenographer	..	1	Maulvi Abdur Raquib .	B A.	70	Tippera.
Typists	..	3	(1) Maulvi Mohiuddin Ahmed ..	Non-Matriculate. He has got 10 years' previous experience.	45	Hooghly.
			(2) Maulvi Abdur Rahman ..	Matriculate	45	24-Parganas.
			(3) Maulvi A O. B. Hyder ..	Non-Matriculate. He has got 5 years' previous experience.	45	Calcutta.
Clerks	..	10	(1) Maulvi Akhtar Mirza .	I.A.	45	Murshidabad.
			(2) Maulvi S. H. Sobhan ..	Non-Matriculate. Sometime Editor of *Muslim Chronicle.*	45	Hooghly.
			(3) Maulvi Md. A. Hamid ..	Non-Matriculate. He has got 20 years' previous experience.	45	Dacca.
			(4) Maulvi A. N. S. Zaman ..	I.A.	45	Tippera.

Designation.	No.	Names.	Qualification.	Salary.	Home district.
				Rs.	
		(5) Maulvi Ashraf Ali ..	Matriculate	45	Noakhali.
		(6) Maulvi S. A. Rashid ..	Ditto	45	Nadia.
		(7) Maulvi Md. Yazdaham ..	Ditto	45	Ditto.
		(8) Maulvi Md. Yahya Khan ..	I.A.	45	Khulna.
		(9) Maulvi Lutfar Rahman ..	B.A.	40	Howrah.
		(10) Maulvi Md. Anser Ali ..	B.A.	40	Khulna.
Record Supplier ..	1	Muhammad Yadat Hossain ..	Matriculate	20	Murshidabad.
		Temporary Staff.			
Clerks ..	9	(1) Maulvi Dewan Yakub Ali ..	Matriculate	35	24-Parganas.
		(2) Maulvi Momtazuddin Ahmed ..	I.A.	35	Faridpur.
		(3) Maulvi Md. Baker ..	Matriculate	35	Howrah.
		(4) Maulvi Abul Faiz ..	I.A.	35	Nadia.
		(5) Maulvi Md. Ismail Hossain ..	Matriculate	35	Pabna.
		(6) Maulvi Sidique Ahmed ..	Entrance	35	24-Parganas.
		(7) Maulvi Motahar Hossain ..	Matriculate	35	Bakarganj.
		(8) Maulvi Abdus Sattar ..	B.A.	35	Burdwan.
		(9) Maulvi Jasimuddin Ahmad ..	Matriculate	35	Pabna.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: With reference to the statement given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the fact that no officers or clerks have been appointed from the district of Tippera?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It is there in the statement.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: With reference to the statement laid on the table regarding Inspectors, the qualification given against No. (7) Maulvi H. Rahman II is "home education". Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what does he mean by saying "home education"?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice. Probably by "home education" is meant that he was not sent to any school or college?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the communal ratio in the Services Rules is followed in the case of appointments under Wakf estates?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Possibly there is a condition in the Wakf Act that the employees should be Muslims.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let us have a reply from the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not prepared to answer that question, but I think that probably that was not maintained. I do not know whether the Communal Ratio Rules are applicable to these services.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to ascertain whether, if it is not possible to appoint Hindus under Wakf estates, he would consider the desirability of not appointing Muslims in the Court of Wards estates belonging to Hindu zemindars?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I shall consider it.

Appointment of Commercial Tax Officers.

*78. **Maulvi M. MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number,

(*ii*) the names,

(*iii*) the age,

(*iv*) the educational qualifications, and

(*v*) the native districts

of the candidates—

(1) interviewed, and

(2) selected for training for appointment as commercial tax officers; and

(*vi*) the minimum educational qualifications prescribed and advertised for the candidates?

(*b*) How many of the candidates selected for training are likely to be appointed to the posts?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT: (the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee): (*a*) (1) Government do not consider that it will be in the public interest to publish the details asked for in items (*i*) to (*v*) in respect of all the candidates interviewed.

(2) A statement furnishing the information asked for in items (*i*) to (*v*) is laid on the Library Table.

(*vi*) The minimum educational qualifications for those who were not already in Government service were as follows:—

The candidates must have passed the Intermediate Examination for Chartered or Incorporated Accountants or have graduated as B.Com.; or

must have had seven years' satisfactory experience of commercial accounts work either as an audit clerk with a firm of registered accountants or in the account branch of any other commercial firm.

(*b*) Of the candidates selected for training, 19 have been appointed as Commercial Tax Officers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the statement on the library table will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us how many of these officers appointed as Commercial Tax Officers complied with the two minimum qualifications, namely, either passed the Intermediate Examination for Chartered or Incorprated Accountants or have graduated as B.Com or have experience of accounts clerk either as audit clerk with a firm of registered accounts or in the account branch of any other commercial firm?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: What happened, was that 42 Commercial Tax Officers were to have been appointed. The Public Service Commission recommended 23 Caste Hindus and none came from the Scheduled Castes, because no one qualified according to prescribed qualifications was available. Only 9 Muslim candidates fulfilled these qualifications. I find that the previous Ministry had appointed 8 Muslims out of these 9 Muslims, one being not available, because he failed at the medical examination. Then a decision was made that in order to recruit more Muslims and Scheduled Castes some other suitable candidates should be selected and given special training—

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Irrespective of minimum qualifications?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: No, with these minimum qualifications obviously. They were selected and were given training and then an examination was held at the end of such training and 17 vacancies out of 18 have been filled up, but there again unfortunately Government could not get the required number of Scheduled Caste candidates out of these candidates.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the recent gazette notification giving the names—and probably the names indicate communities they belong to—of the candidates appointed under the present Ministry, and if so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if those persons, where we find about 10 names published of which 8 are Muslims and one Scheduled Castes, complied with the minimum requirements?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: As I have said just now, the persons selected for training on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission *plus* several other Debt Settlement Officers who were selected by my predecessor, were given special training according to the decision arrived at by the previous Government.

It was also decided in consultation with the Public Service Commission that after the period of training was over, they would take a special examination to be conducted by the Public Service Commission. The examination was intended of course to be a test of the prescribed qualifications. The result of such examination was placed before me. I had nothing to do with the previous decision arrived at and I had no option but to make selection on the basis of the examination result.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Communal Ratio Rules under the Services Rules with all the conditions attached thereto regarding selection—with certain minimum qualifications—have been strictly followed in the selection made by his predecessor as well as in the selection endorsed by him.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: As I have just now said the minimum qualifications first fixed upon were altered later on in the manner which I have indicated——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I also want to know if the communal ratio has been maintained both in regard to the appointments made during the previous Ministry as well as in his own.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: The Communal Ratio Rules could not be maintained so far as the appointment of scheduled caste candidates was concerned, because even now no scheduled caste candidates are available. But I have passed orders that when in future vacancies will be filled up, necessary adjustment will be made provided suitable candidates are available from the scheduled castes.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I would like to say that the qualifications prescribed and mentioned here applied only to 32 posts which were advertised and with regard to 12 posts it was decided by the previous Government simultaneously when these qualifications were prescribed that the debt settlement officers who served Government meritoriously on a temporary basis should be absorbed in different services and these 12 posts should be kept open to them for being filled up after giving them a training and being consulted by the Public Service Commission.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: My question is whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware of these facts?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: That is not quite correct. I have explained the position.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who selected the scheduled caste candidates?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: When the Public Service Commission was first asked to put up the names, they advertised and their reply to Government was that no qualified scheduled caste candidates were available. Later on when other scheduled caste candidates were included in the list, the names came from the debt settlement officers supplied through the Minister in charge of that department.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the advertisement was not issued and therefore the scheduled caste candidates were not available?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: That is not so; at the first stage applications were invited.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly make adequate advertisement regarding the posts of the scheduled castes?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I shall do so with regard to future recruitments.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these 17 appointments were filled by scheduled castes?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: There were only two belonging to scheduled castes and one belonging to another minority community, not a scheduled caste Hindu.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: In answer to Dr. Sanyal it was said that in the first instalment there was no Muslim candidate up to the mark——

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I did not say that. I said that only 9 fulfilled the minimum qualification.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: There were B.Coms. and M.Coms. among the candidates who were not selected. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether they fulfilled this minimum qualification?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: The honourable member is aware that Government act according to the advice of the Public Service Commission and when the list was originally sent by the Public Service Commission to Government, the Public Service Commission indicated that there were only 9 qualified Muslim candidates available.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that among the people who had appeared before the Public Service Commission there were Muslim candidates who possessed minimum qualifications?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I have no reason to believe that the Public Service Commission had deliberately ignored the claims of candidates who were qualified.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire into the matter whether there were candidates who had B.Com. and M.Com. qualifications?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I have just answered the question.

List of backward and minority communities.

***79. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state what facts and circumstances have been taken into consideration for declaring the following communities as minority and backward communities, viz.,—

(*i*) Khandel,

(*ii*) Koiri,

(*iii*) Kulu,

(*iv*) Anglo-Indians,

(*v*) Buddhists,

(*vi*) Indian Christians,

(*vii*) Parsi, and

(*viii*) Sikhs?

(*b*) Whether the criteria applicable to the minority and backward communities referred to in clause (*a*) is also applicable to the following communities, viz.,—

(*i*) Mahishya,

(*ii*) Tili,

(*iii*) Teli,

(*iv*) Subarnabanik,

(*v*) Kangsabanik,

(*vi*) Gandhabanik,

(*vii*) Vaidya,

(*viii*) Tambuli,

(*ix*) Napit,

(*x*) Kumbhakar,

(*xi*) Karmakar,

(*xii*) Barujibi, and,

(*xiii*) Satgope?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) The list of backward and minority communities was compiled in 1930 for recruitment purposes. It is now out of date.

(*b*) The reasons for the differentiation made in 1930 are not now traceable.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what is meant by "recruitment purposes"?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Recruitment to the public services.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the reply that has been given just now by the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee that in making appointments of Sales Tax officers one was taken from minority communities, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is sure that this list is not taken into consideration in making appointments?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Recruitment to public services is governed by Communal Ratio Rules.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: In view of the fact that the list is now out of date, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of revising the list?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Certainly not now when the war situation is so grave. It will be revised when the new constitution is being considered.

Appointment of Professors and Lecturers.

***80. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether several appointments of Professors and Lecturers including Lady Professors and Lecturers were made this year after publication of advertisement inviting applications?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names and qualifications of the candidates who applied for the posts;

(*ii*) the names and qualifications of those who were appointed;

(*iii*) their starting salaries;

(*iv*) the names of the colleges where they have been appointed;

(*v*) whether the appointments are against permanent vacancies; and

(*vi*) what are the terms and conditions of the appointments?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) So far as Professors in the Provincial Service are concerned the matter was dealt with by the Public Service Commission. It is not considered to be in the public interest that this information should be supplied. So far as Lecturers in the Subordinate Educational Service are concerned, there were 451 candidates and the preparation of the statements called for will involve an amount of labour which is hardly commensurate with any advantage to be gained.

(*ii*) to (*v*) Two statements furnishing the information are laid on the Table.

(*vi*) All the conditions of Government service will apply to them. The officers, whose mother tongue is not Bengali, will be required to pass the Departmental Examination in Bengali by the higher standard before their confirmation unless they are exempted by special orders of Government.

Statement No. I referred to in reply to clauses (ii) to (v) of starred question No. 80.

Subject.	Name.	Qualification.	Starting pay.	College to which appointment has been made.	Whether permanent or temporary arrangement.	Remarks.
			Rs.			
(1) Physics ..	Dr. Rajendra Lal Sen Gupta	B.Sc. (Hons.) .. M.Sc. (Cl. I). Ph.D. (London).	250	Presidency College	Permanent.	
(2) Economics and History.	Miss Monorama Bose ..	B.A. (Hons.) .. M.A. (Cl II). Diploma in Teaching (London).	240	Eden High School for Girls, Dacca.	Ditto.	

Statement No. II referred to in reply to clauses (ii) to (v) of starred question No. 80.

Subject.	Name.	Qualification.	Starting pay	College to which appointment has been made.	Whether permanent or temporary arrangement.	Remarks.
			Rs.			
(1) English ..	(i) Miss Leila Khan ..	B A (Hons) M A (Cl II)	125	Lady Brabourne College.	Permanent.	
	(ii) Maulvi Md. Yasin ..	B A (Hons) M A (Cl. II).	125	Islamic Intermediate College. Dacca	Quasi-permanent.	

Subject.	Name.	Qualification.	Starting pay.	College to which appointment has been made.	Whether permanent or temporary arrangement.	Remarks.
			Rs.			
(1) English ..	(iii) Maulvi Elias Ahmad ..	B.A. (Hons.) M.A. (Cl. II). ..	125	Dacca Intermediate College, Dacca.	Temporary ..	He is now officiating at Dacca Intermediate College and has been selected for appointment to the temporary post at Chittagong Madrassa.
	(iv) Maulvi Abdul Hye ..	B.A. (Hons.) M.A. (Cl. II). ..	125	....	Permanent ..	He has been selected for appointment to the vacancy to occur at Presidency College.
	(v) Babu Sadananda Chakrabarty.	B.A. (Hons.) M.A. (Cl. I). ..	125	Rajshahi College	Ditto.	
(2) Philosophy and Logic.	(i) Miss Kiran Bala Datta ..	B.A. (Hons.) M.A. (Cl. II). ..	125	Lady Brabourne College.	Ditto.	
	(ii) Maulvi Fazlur Rahman	B.A. (Hons.) M.A. (Cl. II). ..	125	Rajshahi College	Ditto.	
	(iii) Maulvi Md. Abdul Karim	B.A. (Hons.) M.A. (Cl. II). ..	125	Dacca Intermediate College.	Ditto.	
(3) Zoology ..	(i) Babu Amiya Bhusan Kar	B.A. (Hons.) M.Sc. (Cl. I). ..	125	Bethune College	Ditto.	
	(ii) Babu Amal Krishna Mukharji.	B.Sc. (Hons.) M.Sc. (Cl. I). ..	125	Dacca Intermediate College.	Ditto.	

	(iii) Miss T. V. Tharakan ..	B.Sc. (Hons.) .. M.Sc.	125	Lady Brabourne College.	Ditto.
(4) Civics and Economics.	(i) Miss Anila Bonnerjee ..	B.A. (Hons.) .. M.Sc. (London).	125	Bethune College	Ditto.
	(ii) Maulvi Akbar Kabeer ..	B.A. (Hons.) .. M.A. (Cl. II).	125	Hooghly Mohsin College	Ditto.
(5) Mathematics	Mrs. Bibha Mazumdar ..	B.A. (Hons.) .. M.A. (Cl. I). P.R.S.	125	Lady Brabourne College.	Ditto.
(6) History ..	Miss K. M. Sowmini ..	B.A. .. M A. (Cl. I).	125	Ditto ..	Ditto.
(7) Botany ..	(i) Miss P. R. Parukutty ..	B.Sc. (Hons.) .. M.Sc. (Cl. I).	125	Ditto ..	Ditto.
	(ii) Babu Nirod Kumar Sen	B.Sc. (Hons.) .. M.Sc. (Cl. I).	125	Rajshahi College	Temporary.
	(iii) Dr. Jitendra Kumar Choudhury.	B.Sc. (Hons.) .. M.Sc. (Cl. II). Ph.D.	125	Bethune College	Permanent.
(8) Chemistry ..	(i) Maulvi Mahbuber Rahman	B.Sc (Hons.) .. M.Sc. (Cl. I).	125	Presidency College	Quasi-permanent.
	(ii) Maulvi Md. Daud Ali .	B Sc. (Hons.) .. M.Sc (Cl. I)	125	Hooghly Mohsin College.	Temporary.
(9) Lecturer in Fiq and Usul.	Maulvi Md. Habibullah .	F M ..	150	Calcutta Madrassa	Permanent.
(10) Lecturer in Philosophy and Logic.	Babu Amiya Kumar Mazumdar.	M A. (1st in Cl. I)	125	Chittagong College	Ditto.
(11) Lecturer in Sanskrit.	Mrs. Malati Sen ..	M A. (Cl. I)	125	Bethune College	Ditto.

Subject.	Name.	Qualification.	Starting pay.	College to which appointment has been made.	Whether permanent or temporary arrangement.	Remarks.
			Rs.			
(12) Lecturer in Bengali.	Miss Khadija Khatun ..	M.A. (Cl. II) ..	125	Lady Brabourne College.	Temporary.	
(13) Lecturer in English.	Babu Krishna Ch. Lahiri ..	M.A. (1st in Cl. II)	125	Krishnagar College	Quasi-permanent.	
(14) Lecturer in Book-keeping and Accountancy.	Babu Jagatjyoti Sen ..	B A. (Hons. in Eco. Cl. II). M.A. (Commerce) (2nd in Cl. I).	125	Government Commercial Institute.	Temporary.	

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the subordinate pay shown in the list is graded and whether they have any chance of promotion according to some fixed rules?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I don't follow the question.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: The question is whether they are graded posts.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why there is paucity of lecturers from the scheduled castes—why no appointments are made of professors and lecturers from the scheduled castes?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Because sufficient number of qualified candidates is not available.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there were qualified candidates who were not appointed?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of that.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make enquiries into the matter and see that scheduled caste candidates are appointed?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer to the statement where names of non-Bengalee professors have been given, viz., Miss T. V. Tharakan, Miss K. M. Sowmini and Miss P. R. Parukutty under Zoology, History and Botany, and say whether any suitable Bengalee candidates applied for these posts?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not prepared to answer the question unless I am given notice.

Mr. C. GRIFFITHS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the communal ratio is observed principally and essentially in making any appointments of professors and lecturers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: As far as may be practicable.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Amount spent on tour of Hon'ble Ministers.

43. Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state what amount has been spent for tours of the Hon'ble Ministers in January, 1942?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Rs. 2,156-15.

Pay and prospects of inferior Government servants.

45. Mr. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) With reference to the reply given to unstarred question No. 28 of the 4th August last, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Government has as yet come to any final decision in the matter; and

(*ii*) if so, what are their decisions?

(*b*) If the answer to clause (*a*) (*i*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Government expect to come to a final decision in the matter?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: (*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

(*b*) Government feel that the present disturbed times are not appropriate times in which to consider the revision of the pay scales of menials.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether the high prices will be taken into consideration at the time of revision of pay of menials?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: As I have indicated it is not possible to have a revised scale of pay applicable generally. But since this question was answered, as the honourable member is aware, a rupee has been added to the dearness allowance so far as Calcutta and suburbs are concerned.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether one rupee is sufficient?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: That is a matter of opinion.

Adjournment Motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I have got your consent to my adjournment motion regarding the internment of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee. May I have the leave of the House to move the motion?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is the adjournment motion.

"This Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the internment of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, a member of this Assembly representing Calcutta and suburbs registered factories' Labour Constituency, in his native village in the Faridpur district, by the Provincial Government under Defence of India Rules."

Is there any objection to that?

(No objection was raised.)

In my opinion the matter proposed to be discussed is in order and I fix the time to-morrow after 10-30 or after the ordinary business is over.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is better to fix the time definitely.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I fix the time tomorrow at 10-30.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It will not be possible to have two hours' debate in that case. Under the Rules, an adjournment motion is entitled to be debated for two hours and it may be talked out only

after two hours. I submit that tomorrow's business on the list is not very heavy so far. We submitted that the Supplementary Budget discussion might be taken up tomorrow but we have not yet received any intimation about His Excellency the Governor agreeing to that suggestion. In case the business stands as it now does, the business will not take more than an hour and I submit that you may be pleased to fix the time immediately after the normal business of the day is over, so that we may have a little more time for the debate and we may not keep the members waiting till 12-30 which we shall have to do if you fix the time at 10-30 a.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I fix 10-10 a.m. tomorrow for the debate on the adjournment motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I agree with Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that sufficient margin should be left for two hours' debate, in case full two hours are required. I would, therefore, suggest that you fix 9-30 a.m. day after tomorrow for the debate on the adjournment motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It will be very difficult to find time day after tomorrow for the discussion of the adjournment motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Let me first make my position clear to you——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am only giving you the fact. Day after tomorrow is fixed for the voting on supplementary demands, and neither you nor Mr. Deputy Speaker has any right to change the time fixed for the debate on the supplementary demands.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The reason why I want to postpone the debate a little longer is that we are considering these matters now, and we want to have certain information in the meantime. If we receive that information immediately, well and good: in that case perhaps it would not be necessary to press for the adjournment motion being taken up. So far as the business for the 26th is concerned, I agree with Dr. Sanyal that nothing can be done on that day, and I suggest that the debate for the adjournment motion be fixed at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I fix 10 a.m. tomorrow, the 25th February, for a debate on the adjournment motion.

Lunar eclipse.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Sir, may I know if we meet here on Tuesday week, the day following the eclipse of the moon? Under general convention all offices are kept closed on the day after the lunar eclipse. So, I hope there will also not be any meeting of the House on that day.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will decide that afterwards in consultation with the party leaders.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had no intention at this tag-end of the debate to enter into a detailed examination of the Budget that has been presented to us. After all, Sir, it is true from what has been stated by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that he is not wholly responsible for this Budget. This Budget is a legacy left by Mr. Suhrawardy, no longer honourable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is true that the baby presented by Dr. Mookerjee really belongs to Mr. Suhrawardy. Dr. Mookerjee is merely holding the baby. If you do not think it good looking enough, if you think it is a monstrosity, its manners are not as cultivated as they might have been, please do not lay the blame on Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee. Please do not pursue him with embarrassing questions. I entirely agree with the appeal he has made to the House, and I also entirely agree with him that the present Ministry being in office for only three months and having such power as it possesses only for a short time, and having had only two weeks to prepare this Budget, should not be held responsible for the Budget. I would, therefore, confine myself to two points only and for those two points I maintain the present Cabinet cannot divest itself of its responsibility. One is what is called the steps to be taken for the protection of the civil population of this province and the other is the question of civil liberty. These two questions really go together. Before I take up the question of steps to be taken and money proposed to be spent on A.R.P. measures I should like to tell the House something about a smaller problem—the problem of the refugees who are coming to Calcutta from Burma and Singapore. I have some personal experience in the matter. I do not know whether the House is aware that every evening by Chittagong Mail on an average two to three hundred refugees come *via* Chittagong; they probably travel to Chittagong either on foot or by steamers. Besides steamers arrive at Babu Ghat every day carrying two or three

thousand passengers on board each ship. You can understand the condition in which these refugees arrive. Organisations are working to give them some help. The Congress volunteers are there: the Marwari Relief Society is there: some Muslim workers are also there. For the last few days refugees are also arriving at Howrah station *via* Madras: most of them are Bengalees belonging to Eastern Bengal districts. When I visited them I found the Congress workers, the Marwari Relief Society workers and also workers of my friend, Mr. M. A. H. Ispahani, there. But one thing that struck me then was that I did not find any Government officer trying to help the refugees.

Mr. J. H. SPELLER: May I, Sir, on a point of information, point out that there is a Government officer appointed for the purpose of meeting all evacuees from Burma?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He sits at Writers' Buildings and looks after the interest of European refugees only, making special arrangements for them at Government cost. I give you that information also.

Mr. J. H. SPELLER: I happened to be at 25, Strand Road where there is a first class waiting room for refugees.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That has been arranged for Europeans only.

Mr. J. H. SPELLER: No; it is meant for Hindus, Muslims, Europeans, Anglo-Indians and others and the Deputy Commissioner, Port Police, is in charge of it——

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY: Is the honourable member making a speech or is he still speaking on his point of information only?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Whatever the honourable member has got to say he may say, Sir, later on in the form of a speech.

Mr. J. H. SPELLER: Sir, my point is that the honourable member who is now in possession of the House is giving wrong information only. I submit that all his utterances about Burma evacuees are not based on facts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Speller, I will give a chance to the Leader of your party later on when he will have an opportunity to say what he has got to in this matter.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it may be that a Government officer was there but apart from Mr. Bhattacharjee of the Port Police who is trying to help the volunteers as much as possible I am sorry to say that I did not find a single Government officer and I was there almost every alternate day. It may be that they were resting at the time. Whatever that may be, Sir, the refugees were in want of food, want of clothes, want of shelter, want of medical help because some of them were ill and there were also cases of child-birth on the way. As I said, apart from issuing railway passes and tram passes I did not see any sign of governmental activity. I am sure, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister is not aware of this state of things. I have no doubt if he had been aware he would have himself gone there and seen that things were properly done At any rate, I respectfully invite the members of this House and I respectfully invite the Hon'ble Minister in charge at least to go and see the refugees either at Babughat or at Howrah station or at Sealdah station. Sir, if that is the way the Government deals with a very small problem like the refugee problem, I tremble to think what will happen when bombs fall in Calcutta. Let us visualise the situation. When the bombs fall we have no doubt that there will be a terrific rush at the station; if the bombs fall on the station—God help us—there will then be a rush along the roads leading out of Calcutta. There is sure to be, as far as my information goes, a breakdown of water-supply if the main waterpipe at Tala is hit and I am informed very reliably that the Calcutta Corporation has not sufficient water lorries to supply water to the 8 or 9 lakhs of people that still remain in Calcutta. As regards food-supply I am informed that there is sufficient food for the European population of the city. (Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: They will be evacuated.) Yes, that is also a fact; they will be comfortably evacuated. There will be scarcity of food because there is no arrangement to bring rice, to bring wheat from outside Calcutta. Those who are familiar with the conditions know very well the difference of the price of rice in Midnapore and the price here. The price here is three times the price of Midnapore. Why? Because there are not sufficient wagons, and you can imagine if that is the state of things today, what will be the state of things when bombs will fall in Calcutta. Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister in charge how does he propose to deal with breakdown of water-supply, with breakdown of food-supply, with breakdown of conveyance and with the rush of people to the stations.

Sir, it is said by our white masters that we must have courage, that we must not be panicky, that we must stand as a man and defend our

hearth and home. That advice, Sir, given not quite gratis, is a joke and a cruel joke at that. For 200 years they have treated courage as a sin, courage as a crime. Have you courage to demand your birthright, courage to ventilate your grievances, courage to stand up to this Government? If you have, your place will be in jail, and today they are asking us to be courageous. Sir, we are asked to defend our hearth and home. If we had defended our hearth and home on a certain day in 1757, where would our European masters be. For 200 years we have forgotten to defend our hearth and home and we have no hearth and home to defend today.

Coming to the point which I was dealing with, after all resistance depends upon the morale of the people and that brings me to my next point. If you really want to infuse courage into the masses of the people, the first thing that Government should do is to release those 3,000 workers who are rotting in jail today. They are familiar with the masses; they know how to lead the masses; they have the necessary courage; they have the necessary determination. It is no use asking us to be brave while the bravest of us are rotting in jail. Sir, it will not do for the present Government to say that they had only two months of power. Why? Seven days should have been enough, and please remember that the days in jails are longer than 24 hours. Two months for you means two years in jail, and I am disappointed, Sir, that a Cabinet composed as it is today has not been more energetic on this matter. Sir, it has been said on behalf of the present Cabinet that most of the warrants have been signed in October. That, Sir, is a lame excuse. Those warrants could have been withdrawn in the mean time.

Sir, I do not want to take up much time by mentioning the name of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose. I know the present Cabinet has done much for him. (Mr. KHWAJA SHAHABUDDIN: What have they done?) I know what they have done; you may not know it. (Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: May we know on a point of information?) They will be given by the Ministers when their turn comes. Sir, I am not going to be deprived of my 15 minutes' time by Mr. Ispahani and others.

Sir, I am amazed at the utter futility of their power under Provincial Autonomy. If they cannot release Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, if they cannot keep him in his house for 12 hours, what is the use of sitting there? That is the question which disturbs us; that is the question I put to them also. (Interruptions from Muslim League benches.) Sir, I hope I will be allowed to proceed in peace. I know how to deal with interruptions but my time is limited.

Sir, I will mention one or two more cases. I am familiar with these cases because they are my personal friends and esteemed co-workers. I mention the case of Srijut Surendra Mohan Ghose. Srijut Surendra Mohan Ghosh, the President of the B.P.C.C., was

convicted as a Satyagrahi for one year. He served out that one year. When he came out, not of the jail but of the first gate of the jail, he was rearrested under the Defence of India Act. Any fool knows that he could not have been guilty of any subversive action while he was in jail for one year. I would like to mention the cases of Srijut Arun Chandra Guha, the Secretary of the B.P.C.C., Srijut Satish Chandra Chakravarty, the President of the Khulna District Congress Committee, Srijuts Manoranjan Gupta, Suresh Chandra Das, members of the All-India Congress Committee and many others if I had time. I would not mention the case of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee because we shall discuss that case tomorrow; but there are two other members of this House, members as honourable as any one of us here, as guilty or as innocent as any one of us here, Srijut Pratul Chandra Ganguly and Srijut Jnan Chandra Majumdar. They have been in jail, I believe, for more than a year and it is time that the present Cabinet make up their mind whether they would release them or not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have nearly finished but before I sit down, I would like to state the position of our party. Frankly, Sir, our party is between the devil and the deep sea. On one side I see Sir Nazimuddin with Pakisthan in his pocket (MAULVI ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Who is the devil?) that is the devil. (Laughter). On the other side is the sea Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq—the deep sea, deeper than any sea, the ever-changing and bottomless sea (cries of "Hear, hear"). But, Sir, we need not truckle to any of these parties. Our course is clear.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. Is the expression used by the honourable member quite parliamentary?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This expression was used in this House many times.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I say, Sir, that we need not truckle to any of these parties. Our course is straight, our course is honest, our course is honourable. We shall support every measure on its merit. That is our principle. But apart from principle, every human being has his partiality and, speaking personally, Sir, I confess having some partiality for the present Cabinet. The present Cabinet includes men who are able and honest in their intentions. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Includes some.) All right, some. I say, Sir, there are some whom I have the privilege of knowing. These friends were with us till only recently and I beg to give them a friendly warning. I beg to warn them that they have aroused great hopes in the country. At least they have got one achievement in their record. They have somewhat

allayed the communal feeling in the country. (Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: There was no feeling.) Sir, a member says "There was no feeling". I say there was no feeling except what you created. (Laughter.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I warn them that their achievement is only a negative achievement. They must stand on solid achievement. They can do no better than begin with the release of political prisoners. I say to them that if they fail whatever may be the reasons because they have been frustrated by the permanent Civil Service it does not matter. If they allow themselves to be defeated by the Civil Service which is according to us the real Government in the country, then it would have been much better for them not to have been where they are. (Applause.)

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I offer my congratulations to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on the excellent manner in which he has delivered himself of a speech composed by the Finance Secretary and the Prime Minister of England after the fall of Singapore. The only sentences of doubtful paternity are those that express unconvincingly the desire for communal harmony newly resurgent in the breast of a person, who till recently in his quest for leadership, careered about the country inflaming communal passions and exciting communal bitterness and who has earned an uneviable reputation for uncompromising hostility to the Muslim community; and who has not yet indicated how and when he has changed his views, if he has changed them at all. Were it not for the intensely mischievous nature of an alleged provision for communal harmony I would probably not have bothered to have referred to a budget which merely récites the achievements of the late ministry—achievements which make good reading—and then sets out a skeleton Budget without the flesh and blood which it is the privilege of the ministry to envelop the Budget with in January every year. Further the atmosphere in which we now live and move is so unreal that it seems futile to discuss the Budget of a Provincial Government that can do nothing to save its people and which in a very humble way can only prepare for the worst while hoping for the best. We have grave misgivings regarding the A.R.P. arrangements. I do not wish to belittle the sacrifice of those who have offered themselves voluntarily for this humane service but the fact that we have had to provide two crores of rupees for their remuneration as a stimulant to their spirit of self-sacrifice does not augur well for the actual days of crisis. Let us hope that the arrangements will not break down, that the personnel will be at their posts, that when we want water the tube-wells will begin to flow—the tube-wells so sparingly placed in Muslim mohallas—that the engines and stirrup pumps will work and all the paraphernalia that we have created will justify the

expense. Let me at the same time humbly suggest that a serious effort be made to inspire greater confidence in the people and enlist their co-operation. There should be a real drive for such co-operation and a scheme evolved by which we can secure the assistance of the Congress and the Muslim League to prevent looting, put out fires, rescue people, clear debris and generally render aid to suffering humanity. I was hoping that within these arrangements some room would be made for the evacuation of little children from the danger zones as it has been found by unfortunate experience that their little lives are likely to be permanently ruined by the shock and terror of an aerial bombardment. I trust that some arrangements will be made in due time for them, or at any rate the people warned to evacuate little children as a special case. While on this subject I cannot felicitate the Government on their new scheme of division of expenses. The Government of India unfortunately has a tendency to cast the burden of expenditure on Provincial Governments and to carry on a war of nerves with Provincial Governments until the Provincial Governments yield. They waste valuable time; the Provincial Governments are anxious to get on with the work and the Central Government takes advantage of our sense of responsibility to make financial adjustments to our detriment. The recent failure of Imperial strategy should at least have brought home to the Central Government that some local areas have more than local importance, they have Imperial importance; and Bengal instead of having been treated as other provinces should have been the special care of the Government of India and its sole responsibility. The special reduction of 2 per cent. is more than offset by the fall in the jute export duty and is no recognition of the special importance of Bengal and all that the workmen are doing within this zone.

A new Ministry has come into office. One would have expected that it would have outlined a policy in its first Budget, if it did not do so at the time of taking office. We find, however, that the Budget contains no inkling of what the Ministry is thinking for the benefit of the nation. The reason is obvious. It cannot be expected that a Ministry headed by Mr. Fazlul Huq will be in a position to lay down a policy. I note with approbation that Mr. Fazlul Huq and the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca are both absent from their seats showing a very uneasy conscience. When the old Ministry came into office it had before it the policy and programme of the Muslim League which it had been consistently following for the last 4½ years. (A voice from the Progressive Coalition Party Benches: To the detriment of Hindus.) The new Ministry made up of a conglomeration of people brought together only through the lure of office can hardly produce a policy worth the name. Mr. Fazlul Huq has admitted loudly on the floor of this House that he does not take responsibility for what the old Ministry has done; this was no confession extorted from him in a

moment of passion; it is well known to all that he has hardly contributed anything in the four and a half years that he was with us, except fulminating against Hindus to earn cheap notoriety, and creating a communal situation. The only matter for which he had taken direct responsibility was the Secondary Education Bill, and we have seen the fate of it. Devoid, therefore, of any policy at all, this Ministry seeks to justify itself by trumpeting forth communal harmony and there are innocent people,—some of them are sitting to my left particularly amongst those whose conscience is troubling them for supporting a Ministry headed by a person who has betrayed his colleagues, his party, his organisation and his community. (Cries of "Shame, shame" from the Opposition Benches), there are innocent people who are salving their conscience by accepting this slogan as if this is something newly discovered and newly attempted. They think that unless they bless it they will be charged with being against communal harmony and hence they consider it a fashion to bless it. We, more than Mr. Fazlul Huq and Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, desire communal harmony, but communal harmony cannot be achieved when at least one of the parties has been thrown out, discarded, condemned by his community. Communal harmony was not achieved in the Congress provinces simply by bringing in a few Muslim Ministers in contact with Hindu Ministers and certainly communal harmony cannot be purchased. And what are the first fruits of this policy of communal harmony, repression, repression against the Muslim community. Is it thus that the two communities will ever be brought to work in harmony with each other? The Defence of India Act has been applied against Muslim Leaguers. What has been the justification? Nothing but revenge and spite and anger for the manner in which Mr. Fazlul Huq has been discarded by the community like a fly thrown out of milk. The Muslim League is no subversive organisation. It has preached communal amity throughout and indeed to its credit it may be said that although meetings have been held all over the place not one word has been said anywhere which can lead to communal bitterness. Further it has in no way hindered the war effort and yet it is being treated with as much severity as if it were a revolutionary organisation. The Muslims have every right to express their views against the Ministry brought into being through sheer treachery. As long as the Constitution functions through a Ministry, the Ministry is liable to criticism. Probably the Muslim community would not have bothered to take any notice of Mr. Fazlul Huq and his colleagues even to the extent of an anti-demonstration had it not been for the fact that Mr. Fazlul Huq and his friends made futile attempts everywhere to stage black flag demonstrations against Muslim League leaders and signally failed. For the crime of demonstration against him and his colleagues seven students all due to appear for their examination have been expelled from the Feni College (Cries of "Shame, shame" from the Opposition Benches) and in spite of that

Mr. Fazlul Huq has said I charge him and his colleagues with having been responsible for their expulsion, and I make this charge on very good authority. Four good Muslim Leaguers, one a passed student, two merchants and another a candidate for the B.A. examination were interned for 3 months (Cries of "Shame, shame" from the Opposition Benches) previous to the arrival of the Ministers for no reason whatsoever other than they participated in and organised perhaps more than the others the meeting held at Feni to receive the Muslim League deputation. Another boy has been given the savage sentence of internment for one year for absolutely no reason other than participating in slogans against Mr. Fazlul Huq. The Secretary of Muslim League at Noakhali was interned for 3 months, his clerk was interned for 3 months. Notices have been served under the Defence of India Rules on the press for having published a document in which the treachery of Mr. Fazlul Huq has been exposed. Students have been assaulted and black flags removed by the Police themselves. Before the Ministers went to Hajiganj four Muslim students were home interned for the day and a Leaguer interned for 15 days. All these were just due to cowardice—the Ministers dared not appear without previous repressive action. Persons have been arrested for just showing black flags and a Pesh-Imam was arrested for doing nothing but shouting Allah-O-Akbar; they were kept in hajat for 5 days, refused bail, treated not even as undertrial prisoners but as ordinary convicts and fed on *labsi*. I could go on multiplying instances like this. What I have said will suffice for the present and more will be placed before the House at the proper time. Is this the way to promote communal harmony? The first steps are to repress Muslims and embitter their feelings against the Government. Does not Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee realise that the entire blame will be laid at his doors? He has been flattered by being considered the dominant partner in the Ministry; he is the Syam to the Radha of Mr. Fazlul Huq and he can be certain that Mr. Fazlul Huq in good time will shift the blame on his shoulders when it suits his convenience and he wants to save his own skin. He cannot escape the responsibility for all this repression. The Muslim community is long suffering but I can see such signs of resurgence in it that it will not be able to bear this injustice much longer. If there is any disturbance of communal harmony it will be due to the actions of this Ministry, to Mr. Fazlul Huq and Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee combined who will be responsible for it. Schools and Madrasahs whose boys have attended our receptions have had their grants cancelled and notices served on them for the future. (Cries of "Shame, shame" from the Opposition Benches.) Who is responsible for this—Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, Mr. Abdul Karim or Mr. Fazlul Huq? Do you think that this leaves no scar on the community? In your anger, in the plenitude of your power, in the belief that you will be supported by the Hindu community in any action that you may

take against the Muslim community, you might ride roughshod over Muslim sentiments and you may proceed against individuals, but what have institutions and little boys done to merit your vengeance; and then you talk of communal harmony. Not content with this, you are transferring Muslim officers *ad libitum* and degrading some who have rendered real service to the people in their charge, Hindus and Muslims, simply because you suspect them of having pro-League sympathies. Do you think that you will get good administration by terrorising Muslim officers and do you think that thus you will promote communal harmony? Muslim Bengal is looking on, gnashing its teeth. It hopes that such things cannot last, that so much injustice cannot be tolerated, that some day the conscience of Mr. Fazlul Huq and Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, and if not their conscience, the conscience of their supporters will be awakened to the horrible nightmare to which the Muslims are being subjected. Mere platitudes and sentiments and a provision of one lakh of rupees will not produce communal harmony when all your actions have been directed against the Muslim community. This is a lump provision without any scheme and without any indication even in the Budget as to how the money is to be spent. It has been included in the Budget of the Publicity Department which latterly has been utilised notoriously for the personal propaganda of Mr. Fazlul Huq. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: And not formerly?)

The money of the province, the press of the province and the officers of the province have been utilised for his personal purposes. Moneys have been surreptitiously given to a newspaper which he patronised and which he has disposed of already to several persons. The manner in which you are promoting communal harmony bodes ill for the way in which you will spend this money. Muslim Debt Settlement Board Chairmen are being victimised and are being removed from office and are being replaced by men who it is fondly hoped will utilise their position to carry on the nefarious propaganda of Mr. Fazlul Huq's Ministry and divide the Muslims (Cries of "Shame, shame" from the Muslim League benches)——. Worse than this. Test relief measures are being shifted from localities under the influence of Muslim Leaguers to localities where the M.L.As. of Mr. Fazlul Huq's party live although the latter do not need such measures; and in the former people are starving and need relief badly. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Incredible!) Yes, Sir, this is incredible, but true; the lives of the poor are being sacrificed at the altar of the pride of this Ministry and to the imperative necessity which it feels of bribing its supporters. All these are being done at the instance of the pet M.L.As. of Mr. Fazlul Huq and there seems to be no power which can curb and control such monstrous injustice. There can be little doubt that the money will be spent on agencies whose chief aim will be to exasperate the

Muslim community, to carry on surreptitious propaganda on behalf of traitors and betrayers, on behalf of those who have broken their pledge to the Muslim League over and over again. Mr. Fazlul Huq has enough money in his Publicity Department to play about with, the expenditure of which does not even pass through the scrutiny of the Finance Department of Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee. He should be satisfied with what he has got and should not make further attempts to demoralise the community.

There is little, Sir, that can be said regarding the other portions of the Budget. I find however, a grave departure in the speech of the Finance Minister from accepted practice, a departure which is extremely significant and which must have been prompted by an uneasy conscience. Seventeen Whips have been appointed and it is said that they will receive no pay, no extra emoluments. There is, however, an increased provision for Parliamentary Secretaries on an extravagant scale and yet there is not a word mentioned in the Budget speech on that score. I remember, Sir, when the Lady Parliamentary Secretary was appointed at Mr. Fazlul Huq's insistence on the last occasion it was said that she would be content merely with the honour and will not accept any emoluments. A few weeks had not passed when there was pressure for an emolument on the same scale as that of the Junior Parliamentary Secretary. I fear that on this occasion the appointments are merely the thin end of the wedge, the emoluments are not far behind. Why carry on the administration in this hole and corner fashion, why indulge in cesspool politics and secure support by keeping people dangling in hopes and exciting their baser instincts.

Sir, I see little use thrashing a dead horse. The Finance Minister has taken shelter behind the pitiful confession that the present Ministry has had no time to formulate its Budget proposals or its detailed plans. It has, however, had the effrontery to say that some of the commitments of the late Ministry may well call for revision. Bankruptcy of ideas, bankruptcy of policy and merely loud talk. We heard a great deal when we were in office of the lapses of the late Ministry. Surely, if there were any lapses, they should have been known by now and they can be remedied. The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act was characterised as anti-Hindu. Will the new Ministry in the name of communal harmony take away the rights from the tenants and restore them to the landlords. The Money-lenders Act was characterised as anti-Hindu. Will the Ministry scrap it or increase the rate of interest, or allow once more the old system of extortion to come back? Does it propose to repeal the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Act and is it dropping the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill lest the administration of the Calcutta Corporation be conducted on non-Party lines? Is it going to alter the Communal Ratio Rules and

deprive the Muslims of the belated justice that has been done to them? Does it propose to throw custom to the winds and insist on taking out processions before mosques in spite of accepted custom to the contrary, and set one community against the other? Is it its intention to change the spirit of the administration so that from a just and fair and equitable administration it shall once more become dominantly and militantly Hindu and the Muslim officers will be tyrannised and humiliated? These were the things that were supposed to have disturbed communal harmoney within the last four years and a half and surely we had the right to expect some indication of the policy in these terms from the new Ministry which is going to usher in a new era founded on treachery and betrayal.

Sir, I am alarmed to find that the receipts from the Sales Tax have been thrown into the general pool and that has been done without a word of apology or explanation. In three separate passages in the Hon'ble the Finance Minister's speech I find a satisfaction on his part that the Sales Tax has been imposed and the beneficial effect that it has had on the solvency of the province. I am glad that the Ministry has expressed its policy in this direction, for the Chief Minister has with a dishonesty which has no parallel been circulating the statement that he is not in favour of the Sales Tax and that I, his Finance Minister in the late Cabinet, must bear the entire odium and responsibility. I call upon the House to judge of this amazing piece of treachery against a colleague. The Cabinet passes a measure, the Chief Minister must take responsibility in public and in the Cabinet, and privately in his party and amongst his members he places the entire odium of a taxation measure upon his colleague and whips up a party against me on this score. He will take the credit for the stability of his Government, he will take the credit for the various grants given to educational institutions, to dispensaries, to medical institutions and for all beneficent objects but the odium for collecting the money he will cast upon others' shoulders. The protagonists of the Chief Minister have in their several constituencies been carrying on this propaganda against me. I hope that they will have, if not honesty, just a little conscience by which to judge Mr. Fazlul Huq.

From the financial aspect I am not satisfied with the figures given regarding the proceeds of taxation. It is estimated that this year the tax will yield 25 lakhs. The date of its imposition is not exposed and without such a guide it is not possible for us to forecast what it will yield next year provided, of course, business continues as heretofore. This was certainly a piece of information to which we were entitled.

The utter bankruptcy of any ideas on the part of Government is further exhibited by the fact that they have not appreciated the effect of Japan's entry into the war and the effect of it on jute. When we

accepted ten annas sowings for the next year certain assumptions were made which have not been fulfilled. The optimism of His Majesty's Government and of the Government of India regarding the Japanese war was particularly responsible for our decision. Since then the Japanese have declared war and more than that they have been successful in stopping jute export with a likelihood of still further interference. (At this stage the honourable member reached his time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech in five minutes.) The Government of Bengal should have immediately changed its policy and curtailed sowings. It does not matter if this required the employment of a larger staff and more expenditure for the purpose. Further restriction should have been effected, which would have been in consonance with the possible demand, and which at the same time would have freed more land for paddy growing. I find that this Ministry has wholly failed to grasp the realities of the situation. There is not a single indication anywhere of the danger looming ahead of us, of a complete collapse in jute prices. Having failed to restrict further, there should clearly have been an indication in the Budget of the likelihood of having to purchase jute on behalf of Government in order to maintain prices. This may mean that enormous sums of money may have to be laid out. The jute tax of two annas will not suffice. It is not even sufficient to meet the cost of regulation. It will be necessary to bring the Government of India and the jute mills into the picture. So far as I can see in these cataclysmal times it is not likely that the jute mills will be able to bear the burden or come to the complete rescue of the cultivators. The Government should immediately work out details of funds, of purchase, of agencies, of stocking, of prices, of assortments, of storing, of advances without which there is a likelihood of an economic collapse amongst the peasantry of Bengal on an unprecedented scale.

Sir, if I were to congratulate the Government on the relief measures that have been taken I would merely be congratulating our own selves. Let not the present Government destroy the utility of our measures by insisting on recoveries from those localities where the crop has been very poor or none at all. I have during my tours in the country come across several cases where the poverty of the people has not been sufficiently appreciated and where attempts are being made to collect agricultural loans. I want to make it clear that I do not advocate that agricultural loans should not be collected. As a matter of fact these agricultural loans are a boon to the people, and this boon can only be justified if the agriculturist discharges his corresponding obligation to return the loan when he has the crop. Nevertheless this should not be made an engine of oppression. In fact in many places more agricultural loans will be required this year although the previous agricultural loans are outstanding. Merely because the chances of recovery

become remote there is no reason why new agricultural loans should not be given. In fact, Sir, I have come across a particular case which I have in mind and which I propose to pass on to the Revenue Minister where the local officers are afraid of issuing agricultural loans because they see no signs of the old agricultural loans being repaid although they are entirely satisfied that agricultural loans are required. I am stressing this point because I feel there is hesitation on the part of the local officers not to grant agricultural loans even when there is a grievous necessity for them because they fear that the people have not got sufficient resources even to pay off their previous ones. Where cases like these arise Government should be ready to wipe off previous loans rather than not pay further monies. I would also suggest that where the realisation has to be postponed for want of a good crop the interest should also be given up. The imposition of the Sales Tax makes such financial leniency possible.

Sir, I am glad that two lakhs have been set apart for the Seamen's Home. Here again I congratulate ourselves; but the meagre sum allotted to the Jadabpur Tuberculosis Hospital comes as a shock. We had practically given an undertaking to pay one lakh of rupees every year for the next 10 years to enable it to expand itself. What is needed in that hospital so much is not free beds as more and more accommodation along with free beds. There is such a demand for treatment that Government would do well to assure it of say a capital grant of Rs. 80,000 per year and a further grant of Rs. 20,000 per year for free beds. That is the least recognition that we can pay to a body of men who under grave difficulties are performing a signal act of social service which will entitle their names to be printed in letters of gold. Their institution is extremely well run. It gives very good service and it fulfils an obligation which Government itself ought to have discharged, and it fulfils it far more cheaply than any Government agency.

Sir, I have finished. If this Government really desires to fulfil its obligations, if the Ministers wish to discharge their responsibilities, let them stop for a moment careering about the country at Government expense and set themselves to their task. Their want of policy is not due to the fact that they have had only two months at their disposal. Had they been brought together by a common programme they would have had no difficulty in framing a policy; but the little time that they have had they have not spent in applying themselves to their duties but in search of popularity which has eluded them. Now that they have found how they have been contempted and despised, how their visitations have been preceded and succeeded by repressive measures, how they have left in their wake nothing but exasperation and hatred for themselves and their Chief Minister, let them remain content with being surrounded and supported within the precincts of this chamber

by their followers and set themselves to the task of framing a policy and programme which may be some compensation for their imposition on this unfortunate province.

(Mr. David Hendry rose to speak.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before you allow the leader of the European Group to speak may we know the order of the speeches of the day so that we can understand how long these speeches may go on and how many speakers may be permitted by you to speak?

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Sir, I want to draw your attention to the fact that one honourable member of this group has been trying for the last three days to catch your eye but has unfortunately been unable to do it. Will you kindly give him a chance?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is extremely difficult for me to allot time. In consultation with the Whips of the different groups I have so far decided that after Mr. David Hendry—and I think he will not take more than 10 minutes—I will ask Mr. Dutta Mazumdar to speak for 10 minutes. Then I will ask Dr. Sanyal to speak for 10 to 15 minutes and then Sir Nazimuddin will speak for 20 minutes. The Hon'ble Mr. S. K. Basu will then have 20 minutes and then the Hon'ble Dr. Mookerjee will speak for half an hour or more, and if there is time, I will ask some other members to speak. Yes, Mr. Hendry.

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these are grave and critical times, much more grave and critical, I think, than some of us in this House have appeared to realise. In these present emergency circumstances, Sir, the normal approach to Budget problems is quite unsuitable and I think we might have done without some of the recriminations we have heard in this House in the past three or four days. So far as this party is concerned Mr. Gladding dealt yesterday with the few individual items which we consider require calling special attention to.

This Budget is frankly a Defence Budget and in our opinion the only possible form of Budget in the present situation. In it, provision has been made for the carrying on of the ordinary government departmental work on the existing scale and no attempts or experiments in new taxation or expenditure have been made. In a budget of almost 17 crores the small item of 1 lakh of rupees for communal harmony is, to say the least of it, the only novel feature, and I for one am prepared to believe that it springs from a praiseworthy motive and is intended to give expression to the line of policy which this Government have indicated that they will attempt to pursue. At the same time, I think

they might have given us some scheme or plan of expenditure, or, better still, we hope that communal harmony will be achieved without any expenditure of money at all as it should be brought about.

Sir, whatever criticisms we have heard of the lack of imagination or of conservatism in the Budget, I think we must give the new Ministry some meed of credit for the complete lack of political appeal which they have shown in this their first Budget even in the emergency conditions of the present. This lack of political appeal is to my mind something which might inspire the hope that this new Government are prepared to face facts and put the interests of the province before party politics. I hope they will do so and resist attempts by other interests to divert them from this straight and narrow path.

In spite of what Mr. Suhrawardy has just said I still think there has been some skilful and satisfactory negotiation carried out on behalf of this province with the Central Government in regard to sharing expenditure on Civil Defence; but nevertheless the amount for Civil Defence is very formidable indeed and an anticipated 75 lakhs expenditure for the current year and an estimated 125 lakhs for 1942-43 clearly show the urgency of concentrating all the resources we can muster to meet this expenditure.

And here I would like to emphasise that there is no limit to Civil Defence expenditure. There is no finality in the estimates already made; and even if these estimates include all the schemes at present contemplated by Government, experience elsewhere has shown that constant revision is necessary and that new and expensive schemes have to be initiated to keep pace with changing conditions. As we know, experience in Rangoon has already led to the revision of many Government schemes here and we are still only at the beginning. We think that it is the solemn duty of the Provincial Government at all times to adopt every new measure possible within its power for the Civil Defence of the people of Bengal.

Sir, I have listened during the past few days with astonishment and other feelings which I will not attempt to describe to members of this House who have questioned the use of Civil Defence measures at all, the general line of argument seeming to be that because the citizens are not armed to resist an invader, it is useless to try to protect themselves in any other way; and that the money spent on Civil Defence might quite well be better spent on ordinary social services. Sir, that opposition tactics of this nature should be adopted at this time of emergency is an alarming and dangerous thing. Can it be seriously suggested that in the face of an immediate danger from air-raids, the Bengal Government should take *no* precautions for the construction of trenches or other shelters for the people, should make no first-aid and hospital arrangements; should abstain from taking the obvious steps to increase the fire-fighting services; or neglect to make any provision

for those rendered homeless by air-raids? By known standards, the preparations already made are all too meagre, but had Government neglected to make any arrangements at all for the protection of the lives of the people, these critics would have been the first to arraign the Government for its inhuman callousness and they would have been on much sounder ground in doing so. Or is it possible, Sir, that there are actually members in this House who would like to accomplish the object of the enemy by evacuating this city? If so, I would commend them and particularly the members of the official Congress Group to the exhortations uttered by the ex-Premier of Madras Mr. Rajagopalachariar, last week, in which he advised the people of Madras strongly against running away and giving way to panic. I believe similar advice has been given by Mr. Gandhi himself if I am not mistaken.

I even heard it suggested yesterday in this House that Calcutta should be declared an open city, but the only city which has been declared an open city so far in the face of Japanese attack has been Manila, and the enemy took full advantage of the freedom so given to him to bomb and destroy on a more extensive scale than ever.

So far as Civil Defence is concerned, it is quite certain that the people of Rangoon found comparative safety in the trenches and shelters provided for them; and it is also certain that the best form of military protection was from Allied fighter planes in the air, and it is well to remember that, since the early raids on Rangoon in December Japanese bombers have been beaten off time and again by these fighter planes. That is the best form of military protection which we can have and as against the accusation made in this House that no military preparations have been made whatsoever to protect Bengal I should like to quote from a broadcast talk——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Palmyra trees have been marked as anti-aircraft guns!

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Thank you for the information! Sir, I would like to quote from a broadcast talk by Major-General Molesworth the day before yesterday in which he says: "I can assure you that steps have been and are being taken to protect both our shipping, our ports and threatened areas, and to deal with the danger with which we are faced."

Referring to military protection he further said "there are many people in India, especially in the larger cities who feel that because they do not see fighter aircraft daily flying overhead, no fighter protection has been arranged for their homes. This is a natural, though wrong idea. Fighter planes are based at strategic points, and if dangers threaten then they will be there to tackle and destroy the enemy".

I hope that this will be so as far as this area is concerned, but one thing is certain and that is that the best form of military protection is in the air and not in the hands of the civil population themselves.

Sir, as I have already indicated, the responsibility for military protection lies elsewhere and we should devote ourselves to as complete arrangements as we can make for Civil Defence.

Sir, I have stressed that there is no limit to Civil Defence expenditure. I would also stress the uncertainty of the revenue position. It is true that if the estimated expenditure of Rs. 1 crore 25 lakhs on Civil Defence had not to be incurred this year there would probably have been a small surplus of over a crore of rupees instead of a deficit but we have to keep in mind two facts—(1) the probability that there will be additional Civil Defence expenditure, and (2) the fact that the revenue estimates are based on the assumption that there will be no disorganisation in trading conditions in Bengal. For example, Rs. 1 crore is expected from the Sales Tax which is the anticipated return in normal year in the ordinary way, but I for one doubt whether 1 crore will in actual fact be received. I only point to the uncertainty of this position with the object of suggesting that it will be necessary for the Hon'ble Finance Minister to review the position periodically to see whether on account of deterioration in revenue position or on account of additional Civil Defence expenditure further restriction of other expenditure need not be undertaken.

Finally, Sir, I should like to comment on the appeal made in his speech by the Hon'ble Finance Minister to all parties to sink their differences and co-operate in the face of common danger. He suggested that, for the time being, we should avoid those contentious matters on which we cannot agree and work together in a spirit of harmony and understanding on the vital matters on which we do agree. That appeal my Party most heartily endorses. If we are prepared to work together against the common enemy then we should be prepared to sink our political differences so long as the present danger continues. Admittedly, the Opposition so long as it continues in its present role must continue to act as a political opposition, although the responsibility of an Opposition in present circumstances is very great. But, if we are agreed both on the common object and the immediate danger, then surely it should be possible to arrive at some better working arrangement than we see in this House at the present time. There are talents and ability and administrative experience of a high order in the Opposition Benches which, in the face of the dangers which threaten the province, we should like to see working in, and with the Government. Can we not, Sir, in the present emergency, forego the routine of normal Party Government and create an All-Party National Government to concentrate upon the vital problems before us as has been done in the Mother of Parliaments itself. For the time

being, political differences should be sunk in the face of the common danger. (A voice: What about fifth columnists?). I do not agree that there are fifth columnists in the Government at the present moment. Can we not, Sir, put aside political questions and differences which can well wait until we have triumphed over the common enemy. In such an All-Party Government, composed of representatives of all the different groups in the Legislature, I seek no office or representation for the European Party, but such a Government would have our wholehearted support and co-operation.

Such a Government could deal confidently and expeditiously with all legislative matters and devote more time to the vital emergency problems confronting the province. Parliamentary procedure would not be abrogated, but on the contrary this House would fulfil a function of the highest importance as the forum for responsible constructive criticism of the vital issues immediately before us. How important this House could be with such a Government is being demonstrated before our eyes at this moment when we see the House of Commons able to bring about the most radical changes in the composition of the Government itself.

Let me close then, Sir, with an appeal to the Government, to the Opposition, and to all Parties in this House to sink their political differences for the time being: to close their ranks in the face of the common enemy and to work together wholeheartedly and in unison for the safety and welfare of the province as a whole.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Mr. Chairman, in the course of the general discussion of the Budget one listend with rapt attention to the words that fell from the lips of the Hon'ble ex-Finance Minister. Sir, it is significant that in the situation of today, in the budgetary position of the province today, the state of affairs that we find is not something which has sprung up all on a sudden. But something that is the result of the cumulative effect of what has gone on during the budgetary provisions in previous years. Sir, in connection with the discussion of the Budget, the ex-Finance Minister might have enlightened this House with regard to the achievements regarding the formulation of policy and execution of that policy with which the last Government had started over 4½ years ago. The situation in those days was not what we find it today. They were free from the great events which are moving and there was no war at the gates of India. The past Ministry was also fortunate in having a field new to them for working out a policy which they might have very clearly formulated and carried out. Sir, in that respect, they have signally failed. This Government, since the new Ministry was formed, has shown its solicitude for the opinions and suggestions of all sections of this House. This Ministry was formed not on any other basis but the

basis of allaying communal unrest and unifying people in the face of grave dangers that confront us today. In such circumstances, the Opposition might have been more helpful with constructive suggestions, about which we have heard so much spoken in previous years by the ex-Finance Minister. But, Sir, today I am glad to find that probably a repentent heart is oozing with sympathy for its past misdeeds. It was indeed interesting and significant to hear that the ex-Finance Minister was oozing with sympathy for the prisoners held behind prison-bars. He was protesting against repression. We have also heard him count with great ease and clarity those who have become the victims of the Defence of India Act or other repressive measures. Today we cannot fail to remind him that the prisoners who have gradually swelled the prison-population inside the jails of Bengal during the last 4½ years are beyond counting. Sir, we cannot perform what he has done, viz., the counting on one's fingers. They make a legion who are held behind the prison-bars as a result of the collaboration of the different Departments of the last Government. In that commission of repression, probably the Labour Department under the leadership of the ex-Finance Minister who was a hydra-headed genius to run many portfolios acted as the vanguard. Today, it would not be out of place in the face of the present Budget to have a review of the past, to trace how we are reaping the dangers, the seeds of which were sown in the past. The Hon'ble Finance Minister in presenting his Budget has characterised his Budget as one actuated more by the necessity of nation-saving than nation-building. The work of nation-building was during the period of time when there were no other preoccupations of such a great and urgent nature as we are faced with today. But we have not yet found that definitely formulated scheme of nation-building departments emerging as a result of the work of the last four years of the past Ministry. On the contrary this work of nation-saving today demands the most sincere and whole-hearted co-operation as the Hon'ble Finance Minister has pointed out on the part of all sections of the people. The whole-hearted co-operation cannot come without active participation of the workers in industry, without the active participation of the general civil populace in combating panic and in taking precautions against the coming danger. In that connection, we heard with attention to the words that fell from the Leader of the European Group. The labour policy that has been followed in the past years is vitally connected with the situation and with this question of labour. Today there can be no nation-saving; far less talk of nation-building, for there is not that sense of assurance and security in the mind of the industrial population. What is the result we find today? There is a veritable panic and exodus of huge populations from industrial areas in and around Calcutta. What has been the result? Sir, the labour work from day to day in industrial pursuits, in factories, in creating

materials for the supply not only of normal times but also for war purposes. It is more the flow of materials from factories than the soldiers in the front that decides modern warfare. What has been the result? We find today precisely as a result of the policy pursued during the last 4½ years the ex-Finance Minister in his capacity as Labour Minister backed up by the active assistance of hon'ble members of the European Group succeeded in breaking all labour organisations, not allowing any cohesion, and cohesive organisation among labourers to grow which might not only encourage the collective bargaining and safeguarding the interests of labourers but also instil in them a spirit and sense of assurance that labour might look after its own interests. The Indian labour is coming to realise more and more that they are exposed to the danger more than any other people in this country. Although this war has been brought on our shoulders not as a result of our own choice, not of our own making, but as a result of the policy that has been pursued by the British Government in England and elsewhere, yet we find that the people who are most exposed to danger are not the smug members doing business in Clive Street and living in the cozy corners of Calcutta but the naked poor labourers who are working in industrial areas in Calcutta. So, the danger which has come on them has made them realise the necessity of taking active part in the work of Civil Defence, in the work of anti-air-raid precautions and in the work of steeling themselves against the coming dangers. But those who might have carried out this work successfully are today held in very large number behind prison-bars. Sir, I had occasion only a few days ago to visit the Hijli Jail where nearly 261 security prisoners and detenus are held behind prison-bars. Among them are to be found leaders of the labour movement and industrial workers in Bengal. They are held behind prison-bars as a result of the policy of collaboration between the ex-Finance Minister and the ex-Home Minister backed up by the European Group. This has resulted in a feeling of utter helplessness all over the province. In this situation, one should have thought, if I might offer a word of friendly criticism to the Hon'ble Finance Minister on this side of the House, that this Budget while talking about elaborate schemes having been worked out on the basis of expert advice and experience gained elsewhere might have taken stock of the labour situation, might have taken stock of how labourers might have been organised and inspired to co-operate among themselves with a view to perform their duties that they will be called upon to perform in a very short time. In that connection, it would have been necessary to formulate better measures specially for the protection of industrial population in our factories. The targets of the enemy bombing are not so much the civil population as these industrial bases in the rear and they being exposed to such danger one of the foremost tasks, one of the foremost features of all schemes for the purpose of providing defence against the probable danger——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is over.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Two minutes more, Sir. One of the tasks is to work out precisely schemes first and foremost for the purpose of ensuring defence and safety of industrial workers. Not only that, while talking about the scheme of Civil Defence, we want to point out that there can be no Civil Defence in the situation of today unless the people had the advantage of being organised to defend themselves also with weapons, with training in arms, with training in self-defence, so that in the event of the enemy over-running the country they might defend their hearths and homes—a policy that has been advocated even by the leading European journalist in this country.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had no intention to take part in the general discussion of the Budget but for the fulminations from certain sections of the House during the last two days of the Budget discussion. We of this group and party do not like to be associated with an Opposition that generally talks as if they are disgruntled job-hunters. We would like to take things plain and simple and we want the House to realise that so far as the Congress Party is concerned they proposed to follow the clean path of honest principle in all matters of parliamentary and extra-parliamentary activities. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has presented a Budget this year which he has himself admitted as of a makeshift character. I am sure nobody knows better than he does the limitations under which he had to work. He had hardly two months to go into and hardly three weeks to examine the proposals in the Budget, and honestly speaking we must be in a position to appreciate such difficulties. The present Ministry's difficulties, however, have not stood in the way of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister assuring us that he would examine the commitments of the past Cabinet and, if necessary, revise some of the provisions in the Budget if he is convinced that those are not in the best interest of the province.

After all, as my Leader has already stated, Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee is holding Mr. Suhrawardy's baby in arms, and it ill-behoves Mr. Suhrawardy and his party men to criticise Dr. Mookerjee's Budget on the lines that have been repeatedly levelled against Mr. Suhrawardy's own budget in previous years. It has been stated that the Budget does not reflect any credit on Government. I may say that it is only the Congress Party that has consistently been saying this. It has further been pointed out that there is evidence of corruption, bribery and patronage. I ask the honourable members of the

House to realise as to who have really been responsible for this deplorable state of affairs. I am surprised that Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali, Mr. M. A. H. Ispahani and others whose names have been, from one end of the province to the other, associated with nefarious activities in business circles with the help of the previous Government now come forward with a precious advice that the present Ministry should give up corruption and bribery. I realise that there are certain Ministers in the present Ministry whose names are not very clean from charges of that character, and yet I hope that there are other persons in the Cabinet who will be in a position to check them from passing by that door. It does not lie in the mouth of Mr. Suhrawardy and Mr. Ispahani and such other persons to talk of corruption, bribery and patronage. And yet we recognise that so far as the present Budget is concerned, there is hardly an evidence of any remarkable change and to that extent I will also not be slow in offering my severe criticisms of the utter inefficiency of the present Ministry to change the policy of Government and to present us with something more solid. I would only mention a few items from the previous year's discussions which still find place in the present Budget and I would like the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and his Cabinet to examine how far some of those criticisms could be avoided, if not in the course of a day, at least when he would prepare a future Budget.

Sir, the first criticism that was levelled against previous years' budgets was the cogent criticism of Rai Harendra Nath Choudhuri that in the preparation of our Budget there was not sufficient attention given to careful budgeting both on the receipt side as well as on the expenditure side. We had been for the last few years criticising that position in the Public Accounts Committee and we have found, to our utter helplessness, that towards the end of the year when there was hardly a month or even less to go, we were confronted with Supplementary Budgets with large amounts provided therein and we had hardly any time to examine those additional demands. And constitutionally the position on such occasions had been so awkward that we could neither throw the supplementary out nor swallow the provisions made therein. I hope the present Ministry will at least see that they do not find themselves faced with the same situation in future.

The second charge that had been levelled in previous years had been with regard to the top-heavy character of the administration and increasing expenditure on Civil Administration in particular and on various other non-nation-building services. We find the same gross negligence continued in the present Budget. We notice large expenses going towards not only the maintenance and strengthening of the political party of the Ministers but we also find new expenses provided for Parliamentary Secretaries an increase in whose numbers is being arranged for. Government Whips are now unpaid but, we apprehend,

these would be paid through a backdoor in the name of Parliamentary Secretaries later on. We also find a larger amount provided for Ministers although at the present moment only nine Ministers are functioning and we trust that the number would be retained at that figure. We do not know what their salaries would be—I say, we are not aware of any policy regarding the salaries of the Ministers. On the contrary, the nation-building services are still being starved and a scrutiny of the details which will be made during the demands for grants will show that there is hardly any increase in any of the departments of nation-building character. At the same time we are hopelessly and rudely reminded of the continued absence of policy and plan with regard to these nation-building services—particularly with regard to Irrigation, Agriculture, Industries, Public Health, Education, Co-operation, Commerce and Labour. It appears that there has been a perfect deadlock in the Secretariat so far as the nation-building departments are concerned and all sins of omission and commission in these departments are tried to be covered up and condoned in the name of the war situation. There is hardly any useful work going on in the various departments of the Government excepting the clearing of files with A. R. P. marks on, and important measures are held up in the name of the war situation.

We have repeatedly criticised the method by which lump sums are provided under various heads and we have been always criticising these because at the end of the year we have invariably found that there has been no well thought-out scheme or plan, no machinery examined for actually putting such schemes into operation and money was provided more to delude the public outside and deceive the members of the House at the time of the Budget. I trust that the present Ministry will at least see that such may not be the fate of the lump sum provisions made in the present Budget as well. We find the same policy of patronage in the grants-in-aid and in the provisions for various kinds of expenditure for the departments. We suspect—it is not possible to be more definite at this stage—we suspect that the same policy of somehow maintaining themselves in power by distributing patronage may be continued by the present Ministry.

We apprehend and I believe the Hon'ble Ministers will themselves discover and have the frankness to admit on the floor of the House, that the Budget and practically the entire expenditure of Government are still being domineered by the Secretariat Civil Service. I am particularly reminding the House of the Civil Defence and A. R. P. services expenditure in this connection. With the little experience I have got and gained during the last few weeks, as I have been doing some important work in that connection, I have noticed that there is hardly any co-ordinated policy. In spite of the appointment of a so-called Civil Defence Minister somebody else dominates and deals with

the files and the Ministers do not know what is happening. There has been recently an officer appointed to help the Civil Defence Minister as Co-ordination Officer for Civil Defence. Last two weeks that officer has not known what are his duties and he has not been acquainted with the Civil Defence files that are moving from place to place. This is because possibly he happens to be an Indian I.C.S. officer. Unfortunately, Sir, in the Secretariat there is a clique——

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, may I have 5 minutes more?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may have 3 minutes more.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We find in the Secretariat that there is a shameful cleavage between European I.C.S. officers and other officers of the State. The Europeans have usurped all appointments of any responsible character under Civil Defence and when one Indian officer was appointed as Officer for Civil Evacuation, the whole European press and the Europeans in a body went against him and wanted his head on a charger. The Minister of Civil Defence appears to be helpless. We suspect that there is a sinister game behind all this. We suspect that as in the matter of Military Defence we are kept completely in the dark, so it is a sinister attempt of the European gangsters to keep our Ministers and the country completely in the dark about what they are doing with regard to the matter of Civil Defence. Sir, I submit that this kind of ostrich policy will not do. Even leaving aside Military Defence, our arrangements for Civil Defence are far from satisfactory and although all sections of the House are united to strengthen the hands of Government in the matter of Civil Defence, we find the bureaucracy, particularly the white bureaucracy, still standing in the way of the Ministers enlisting the sympathy of the Congress, of the Muslim League, of the Hindu Mahasabha and of various other voluntary organisations for social service to help in the matter of organisation of relief in connection with Civil Defence. We have found that the personnel selected for A. R. P. and Civil Defence have been out of certain retired and old officials or henchmen of Government who have pledged their loyalty in the past and are considered to be safe enough.

Sir Reginald Maxwell admitted on the floor of the Central Assembly that they suspected that all Indians are fifth columnists. I pray that if all Indians are fifth columnists, they must be left to themselves to decide what they would do with regard to the Japanese aggression and not the European masters here.

Sir, we of the Congress have made repeatedly clear our policy with regard to the war situation. We have said that the British aims on

the war should be clarified and defined. We are not going to let ourselves being dragged as pawns in the game of British Imperialists any more.

Sir, I make it perfectly clear here and now that the country regards the present war as not a war of India. We have been dragged into the war against our will. We are a neutral country. We are neutral —at present under the domination of Britain as Belgium is under the domination of Germany. Our resources and men are being utilised for imperialist military purposes against our will and yet, Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that we are also keen to resist Nazism and Fascism, we are also keen to uphold democracy, we are also keen to usher in the New Order that has been shown light of by the Soviet Russia and we are prepared to help and co-operate in the war efforts only if we know that we are free agents and we are independent to decide our own policy and our own fate. Where is the policy? Where is even the indication thereof? Gestures have been made from time to time. The Government of Britain are, however, still taking up a negative attitude and possibly they will come to a decision at a time when it will be too late and we shall not be in a position either to help or to resist. If that situation, which, I am afraid, is fast approaching, comes it will not do to say that Indians have been fifth columnists. We shall only be transferred from one yoke to another and we shall helplessly look on when the Japanese aggressors will come and the British aggressors will be wiped out by them.

Sir, in this connection I have only to point out the helplessness of the Hon'ble Defence Minister in one respect. I found in the "Bombay Gazette" a notice issued, dated the 2nd February, whereby the Bombay Government ordered that every householder should keep sand-bag and sand for protective purposes and Government would supply all the sand and sand-bags free and they required householders only to go and take them to their own places. They have gone further. They have said that in case a householder fails to take steps, Government have taken power to take the sand-bags to his house and deliver them there. On the contrary what do we find here? Orders have been issued that every person having an income of Rs. 30 must under the penalty of a certain character purchase sand and sand-bags at his own cost and even if the supply is not available, he runs the risk of being hauled up for an offence. Sir, this is the manner in which things are managed here and I am afraid the Hon'ble Minister does not know that this order has been issued from a department of which he is supposed to be the master.

Sir, we are united with all progressive sections of the House in demanding of the present Ministry that they should assert themselves at the present moment. Here is an opportune moment for all of them. They must wrest real power and in that wresting of power if there is

any obstacle from either the vested interests of the European Group or any other interests who are now crying for Pakisthan, being set up by the Viceregal command or otherwise, the Ministers should be strong enough to overcome such obstacles and to wrest that power. Let us all unite in the fight for freedom and gain independence for India either with the help of Britain or without.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, the budget that has been presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister contains practically no new or startling features. Actually it has got to be recognised that the Hon'ble Finance Minister had very little time to prepare his budget and a critical examination of the budget will show that most of the provisions for the nation-building departments have been practically repeated from the previous year's budget, and it will also be seen that last year the old Ministry provided very large amounts for nation-building departments. It is obvious that the new Ministry cannot present a budget with anything new, because in spite of being in office for three months, they have not yet been able to formulate any policy or programme of their own. They have not been able to present any new plan or programme, and it is quite natural that a Ministry which has got so many diverse conflicting elements in it cannot present a plan or programme. Sir, this Government has also said that their new policy is one of nation-saving. Evidently, advantage has been taken of the recent war situation. One could understand if they had been frank and bold and come forward with a policy saying that in view of the recent situation and the menace to the province of Bengal the Government of Bengal will restrict all their other activities and confine themselves to and concentrate all their attention upon the A. R. P. and the Civil Defence services. But even here they have not been frank either with this House or with the general public. While providing money for the nation-building departments, they do not propose to do very much for those departments. In passing I may refer to one characteristic attitude of the Ministry which is particularly headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. We were told that the Secondary Education Bill will be proceeded with in this session. The old Bill has been dropped, and although an informal conference was called and it was given out by the Hon'ble Chief Minister that he intended to proceed with this Bill in this session, it is obvious that he cannot and does not propose to get on to introduce a new Bill. Leave alone the question of introducing the Secondary Education Bill, I am certain that he will not be able to publish the Secondary Education Bill before the session is over. The whole policy of the Ministry at the present moment is to mislead the public and create an impression that they are going to do things which they have no intention of doing.

Sir, as far as the budget is concerned, we find that Rs. 4 crores is estimated to be spent on Civil Defence and A. R. P. services. We realise that the province of Bengal is threatened with air raids and perhaps invasion. It is necessary to take precautionary measures, but unfortunately there is no scheme, there is no real knowledge of the local problems in connection with the A. R. P. and Civil Defence services. As Dr. Sanyal said, the policy with regard to the A. R. P. and Civil Defence services is being directed by the permanent officials who are mostly guided by what has taken place in England or what the local experts tell them to do without having any knowledge of the local conditions. I will cite one example which I consider to be very important. As far as the A. R. P. and the Civil Defence services are concerned, in my opinion the most important question is the provision of overhead shelters and slit trenches for the city of Calcutta. I am not in a position to state what arrangements have been made for other towns threatened with air raids, but as far as Calcutta is concerned, only a provision of Rs. 35 lakhs has been made for covered shelters. Anyone who would take the trouble of going round the *basti* areas will find that the covered shelters provided will only accommodate 100 to 200 persons, whereas the *basti* population of that particular quarter may be anything from 2,000 to 5,000. It has been supplemented perhaps by the construction of a certain number of slit trenches and this again will certainly not provide shelter to even 50 per cent. of the people living in *basti* areas.

Now, Sir, it is the workers in the factories, the poor people living in the *bastis*, who can have no other protection except the slit trenches or covered shelters. They are mostly distant from private houses which are supposed to give protection. The people and Government will mainly rely on *pucca* buildings to give protection to the middle class people. Here again I maintain that the experts are relying on this protection on the experience of what took place in Chunking or perhaps Rangoon. It has been our experience that all forecasts by those who are supposed to know have turned out to be wrong. Recently it has been at Port Darwin where the Japanese used high explosive bombs of 500 lbs. If this type of bombs or even bombs of 250 lbs. are dropped in Calcutta, most of the buildings in Calcutta will offer no protection whatsoever. Actually the houses built in Calcutta provide protection only from splinters and nothing else and if high explosives are dropped in Calcutta, these houses will be more like a death trap than anything else. Therefore, Sir, I submit that the Minister in charge of the Civil Defence Services should take more initiative and more personal interest in looking into these affairs, because he knows the local conditions and not leave it to the permanent officials over this question. I know that as far as the A. R. P. and the Civil Defence services are concerned, the old Government was very much handicapped, firstly

because the Calcutta Corporation refused to recognise the possibility of air raids over Calcutta and refused to co-operate with the old Government. The Government of India also had no policy and gave no direction. Secondly, on account of the delay in coming to a financial settlement with the Government of Bengal, they practically retarded all our plans and schemes in putting the A. R. P. organisation and the Civil Defence on a proper footing. The present Minister has had this advantage that financial settlement has been made, though, as has been very rightly described by Mr. Suhrawardy, not very advantageous to Bengal. Then again the Government of India have failed to recognise the importance of Bengal, and particularly the Calcutta industrial area. We have always maintained that Bengal should not be treated on the same line as the other provinces, firstly because it is liable to attack much more than any other province and liable to a more serious nature of attack than any other province and, at the same time, practically the entire war effort and war industry of India is situated round about Calcutta. Therefore, we maintain that it was the duty of the Government of India to make a special consideration for Bengal, because the scale of expenditure which Bengal will have to incur is far greater than any other province will be called upon to do, yet we find that the settlement that has been arrived at is practically the same for all practical purposes. But, Sir, after the settlement, it gives now latitude to the provincial Government to get on with the work, and I hope that the Ministers instead of running about the country, particularly the Chief Minister, should remain in Calcutta and give serious attention to the pressing problems of the province.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: So that you may have facilities for propaganda!

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There is another question which I think the Government should attend to. They should come forward and announce their policy instead of leaving the public in the dark, and that is the question of evacuation. We are told that a scheme for evacuation is being prepared and that measures are being taken. What is the evacuation scheme? What do the Government want the public to do? On the one hand we are told that people must remain in Calcutta and that nobody should go. At the same time, it is contemplated that there will be evacuation of Calcutta. What kind of evacuation is it going to be, temporary or permanent? Is it expected that the evacuation will be on the same lines as in Rangoon? Or is it only to provide temporary shelter so that people may come back? It is only fair that the public should be told what are the provisions that are being made for evacuation. Is it going to be satisfactory? Is it going to be of any assistance, or is it only going to cause immense difficulties and hardship for the people who are likely to come out?

Lastly, as far as A. R. P. and Civil Defence are concerned, I feel that it is not fair merely to call upon the province to find the money for A. R. P. and Civil Defence and to call upon the people to be firm, to be brave and to remain in their places. Sir, I know that one of the leading European papers in this city has been trying to make out that the Bengalees, Muslims and Hindus, are frightened and are panic-striken and that they will run away with the first bomb that will be dropped in the city of Calcutta. It is a very unfair and unjust allegation against the Bengalees. I refuse to believe that the people of Calcutta, the Bengalees, will be any more panicky than those of other towns bombed either in Europe or in Asia. It is only fair that we should do everything in our power to enable people to remain here. It is not enough merely to provide shelters and medical facilities, but there must be active defence provided for which will give a sense of security to the people and a feeling that if we stick to our place, we are not going to be simply shot or murdered, but some kind of defence is going to be put up, and it will not be easy for those who come and try to destroy people and their hearths and homes. (Cries of "Hear! hear!" from all sections of the House.) Quoting the speech of a General or a prominent politician is not enough. We have known in the past that some remarks were made about the adequateness of military preparations in other places, Singapore for example. We heard a lot about the preparations that were made in Singapore, but when it came to the test, it was found that they amounted to nothing. I feel that the Ministry should consider it their duty and it is our duty also to claim that the Government and the British Government must provide now for Bengal adequate active defence, armed forces, aeroplanes, anti-aircraft guns, etc. There is no justification for keeping these things in Great Britain. There is still time for sending them to Bengal. We can legitimately claim that apart from all other considerations, in the interests of war effort, for the purpose of winning the war, for the protection of India, it will be necessary that these steps should be taken and the Government should make this demand. We have not been told by the Ministry that they have made any representation whatsoever to the Government of India and to the British Government or that they have taken any steps to satisfy themselves that anything in the shape of active defence which is really adequate is being provided for the defence of Calcutta. I think that in this matter Government is very much quibbling.

Then, Sir, I would like to refer to another question which I consider of equal importance and which intimately concerns the people of the province. I am now referring to jute. It is well known that practically the prosperity of the province depends on the cultivation of jute and a good price being obtained for it. The Government ought to have known that the situation has radically changed and that the jute

which is consumed mostly by mills or exported may not be consumed by the mills or exported. They have announced no policy whatsoever as to how they are going to face the situation if this vast quantity is produced next year——

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Were you not guilty of that?

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: At that time the situation was entirely different. The prospects were very much better and there was every hope that the jute that would be produced would be consumed and that a good price would be obtained. But the situation has absolutely changed now and therefore it is necessary for Government to do this.

I see the blue light is on. I won't take more time of the House. I only want to stress one or two points. In the budget a provision has been made for a grant to the University of Calcutta. In this connection, I want to raise a question of policy and I particularly appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister who was the power behind the throne in the University and is now the power behind the throne not only in the University but also in the Government. The policy of Ministers of Government taking an active part in the affairs of the University is in my opinion a very dangerous thing as far as the autonomy of the University is concerned. I could understand Hon'ble Ministers retaining their seats and influencing the University as long as they were uncertain of their position in the ministerial *gadi*, but now that they are firmly entrenched I feel that the time has come when they should resign their posts in the University and give the University the autonomy that is necessary. Otherwise, it will be creating a very dangerous precedent in the future.

I feel a certain amount of personal satisfaction and I feel that our party can take credit for the formulation of our policy with regard to the subversive movement by the present Ministry and particularly the supporters of the Ministry. These Ministers and their followers who have for the last four years been condemning us for pursuing a policy of suppression against the subversive movement have on their assumption of office not only maintained that policy but have been continuing the policy of arrests, internments and externments. I ask the House to consider the type of speeches that would have been delivered if the all-India leader of the Forward Bloc had been externed from Bengal by an order of the Ministry. Supposing we were in that place, imagine how we would have been subjected to the frothing and fuming of Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar and to the polished Bengali speech that Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakravarty would have delivered lashingly on the Home Minister to-day, but I find they are silent. There is no more any thundering condemnation by the present Finance

Minister. I find that with the assumption of responsibility and having come to know all facts they now realise that the old Ministry were justified in the actions they had taken.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the members of the House who have taken part in this debate for the frank recognition of the fact that the present Ministry has come into office only about two months ago and a certain allowance should be made to them in respect of that fact. In the framing of the budget, in making provisions for Civil Defence and in all other matters they have inherited a legacy out of which they cannot extricate themselves. That is a point which has been brought out with very great significance by the honourable Leader of the Congress Party, and the honourable the Leader of the Opposition has not stinted in his appreciation of that fact. That is something which is encouraging to us, for we take it as a recognition of the fact that given time and opportunity we shall try to write on a cleaner slate, than what has been handed down to us.

Now, Sir, with regard to the various aspects of Civil Defence which have been stressed before the House, I have neither the time nor the opportunity within the brief compass of twenty minutes or so to give an adequate idea of what is being done in that respect by the present Ministry. Sir Nazimuddin has very frankly stated that much of what has been done was done during his regime; and from the information that I have been able to gather I know that the shaping of the policy was to a large extent done by the ex-Home Minister, and the appointments and the details of the working which we have inherited were adopted by the previous Ministry under his inspiring guidance so that if any praise attaches to us now much of it is due to him and if any blame attaches to us, of which a great deal has been voiced on the floor of the House by the Opposition, much of it goes as well to his share. I think we cannot legitimately lay any claim on that.

Now, Sir, there are some points which have been very prominently brought out towards the end of this debate on behalf of the Opposition to which I shall make a passing reference before I proceed further. At the very outset I shall take notice, if I may, of one observation which has been made by my esteemed friend Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal. He says that an Indian Special Officer has been appointed in the Civil Defence Co-ordination Department, but he is not being given all the facilities to which he can justly lay his claim. By facilities probably he means the facilities that are accorded to European officials in the Secretariat. I do not think the time has yet come for passing a judgment of that character.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But he does not yet know his duties.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: My friend seems to know more about Secretariat matters than we ourselves seem to know, but at the same time I can assure him that since he has joined my work only about a week or so ago it must take him some little time to settle down to his work, for he has been brought here from the general department in which he was engaged as Additional District Magistrate in Comilla. Having been provided with work of a wholly different nature, it will take some little time for him to have a grasp on the work he has been called upon to do in order that he may put forth his best endeavour and ability in the discharge of his new duties.

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE: In the meantime Calcutta may be bombed.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: We cannot help that. We can only take steps to protect ourselves and adopt measures for Civil Defence.

There is one other matter to which reference has been made by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal and that is the order of the Bombay Government laying down that that Government will supply sand and sandbags free to all and sundry. I am not unaware of this order. I understand that that order was published a few days ago in the *Bombay Gazette*, I think on the 19th February last.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On the 2nd February that order was issued.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Might be, but it found its way to me only recently. I admire the vigilance of Dr. Sanyal on that point. I am not unaware that such an order has been passed, but I would draw his attention to the fact that Bombay is somewhat differently situated from Calcutta so far as sand is concerned.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Throw dust instead of sand.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I hope Dr. Sanyal will agree with me that people of Bombay can get sand for the mere asking or by merely going to the sea shore. But Calcutta is very differently situated. Here the supply of sand is intermixed with the

question of transport. Transport is a problem which is baffling all our efforts, because it is in the hands of the Government of India who are themselves very much in difficulty over this question at the present moment. As regards bags, well, these are certainly within our purview to secure, and I can assure Dr. Sanyal that we have taken steps for the free supply of sand and the supply of bags at a minimum cost of one anna each, provided this experiment works successfully. We are going to make an experiment at once, and if we find that this free supply of sand can be effectively managed and operated upon, if this sand does not evaporate into thin air at places where they are dumped and if these bags can be successfully used by people who are really in need of them as distinct from people who can certainly purchase them if they so desire, we shall take steps to carry out the experiment which we are going to start immediately. That is a decision which had already been taken even before this Bombay order came to our notice.

Now, Sir, Sir Nazimuddin says that there are no schemes and the officials who have undertaken the task of formulating the Civil Defence scheme have no local knowledge. I do not know when this revelation dawned upon my honourable friend. He had entrusted everything in the hands of the officials; in the matter of drawing up schemes, in the matter of providing Civil Defence, everything was entrusted in their hands. It is now my effort to associate non-official opinion as much as possible with our Civil Defence measures in Calcutta. I can give this assurance to the House that the fullest possible attempt will be made to associate non-official opinion and advice in all our efforts from the point of view of effective provision for Civil Defence and, as much as it becomes necessary, to associate with non-official efforts—not merely opinion and advice—in the matter of helping Civil Defence. We shall not stop at any stage but will go forward. In fact, there is a scheme already in the making which is likely to be put forth and given effect to from the coming week to associate non-official leaders of Calcutta in every area by setting up Civil Defence Committees. They will be requested to advise Civil Defence officials, Civil Defence wardens, Civil Defence casualty-workers so that all the grievances of the public might be brought to the notice of the highest officials of the department and the intentions of the department may be conveyed similarly to the public generally. These non-official committees will consist of people of the highest influence and respectability in their particular areas and they will, I am sure, exercise a good deal of influence upon our civil defence measures in Calcutta. That is a problem which I have been trying to tackle since this new portfolio was created. Provided non-official gentlemen come forward in a spirit of help, come forward in a spirit of reliance upon what is being done, I am sure we can get the highest possible assistance from non-official opinion in Calcutta and——

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sorry to intervene, but we are all in great danger. The House has been surrounded by a very large number of students who have also entered the hall outside. They are supposed to be students from some medical school and they have come perhaps to see the Chief Minister or to attack him—I do not know what.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will just enquire.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I may give the House information on this. I had personally been there and talked to them. They are students of the Campbell Medical School. They have been carefully and patiently listened to by the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed and the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Hashemali Khan and all their grievances have been placed and are being enquired into, and Mr. Siddiqi may rest assured that there will be no molestation on him when he goes out.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: They are inside the lobby.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, with regard to the digression, I am already aware that a deputation has come, and I told them that I cannot leave the chamber when honourable members of the House are addressing the Chair on the question of Civil Defence and they have agreed in writing to wait until I am free.

Then, Sir, there is one question to which Sir Nazimuddin has drawn pointed attention, and that is the question of evacuation. I am sorry that he has not followed the communiqués which have been issued from time to time by Government on this question.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On a point of personal explanation. One of the reasons why I raised these things was that as far as I was aware the original idea was to provide at least a crore of rupees for covered shelters. I find that that has been reduced to only 35 lakhs of rupees.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: On the question of evacuation I can say here and now that there is no question of compulsory evacuation of the population in Calcutta. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: At present.) I am talking of "at present." In fact, Dr. Sanyal has done real service by pointing out that nobody can anticipate what is going to happen in the immediate future in regard to these matters. Provision for Civil Defence must always be in the very nature of things more or less an intelligent guess; sometimes it may be an unintelligent guess, but it must be guess-work and

speculation to a certain extent. The enemy is developing his methods of warfare from day to day and his fields of operation are enlarging from day to day. That requires constant revision of our Civil Defence measures and constant revision of our policy so that Dr. Sanyal is quite right in saying that at present there is no contemplation for compulsory evacuation. That is undoubtedly so, and that I want to make clear. At the same time I desire to make it clear that there is no intention of checking the outflow of the population from Calcutta on a voluntary basis. Those who are not required to stay here in connection with the essential services are free to leave Calcutta and go anywhere they like. But essential services must be maintained, and steps have got to be taken by Government for the purpose of keeping the essential services going to the fullest possible extent in Calcutta and in industrial areas. That is the position with regard to evacuation. The word "evacuation" is a misnomer more or less. The word has been adopted because it is so well known to the public. It really means voluntary exodus, and if voluntary exodus takes place Government are already aware as to the measures that will have to be taken. Temporary shelters will have to be erected and they are all in the way of making necessary arrangements.

Provision for feeding a large population which may move out of Calcutta is being made. In this respect it is my hope that voluntary organisations will come forward to assist the Government in the matter of taking charge of this crowd and in the matter of feeding and providing them with shelter. (MR. SUKUMAR DATTA: Has the Government any scheme for evacuating children?) I do not think any scheme has been prepared for the compulsory evacuation of children yet.

Then there is one question with regard to the refugees which the Hon'ble Leader of the Congress Party has raised in a very pointed fashion. I am sure that non-official agencies are doing their very best to meet the refugees at the railway stations or at the steamer ghats and giving succour to them. Government are extremely grateful to every non-official agency which has come forward and undertaken the burden; and here on the floor of the House I am entitled to acknowledge freely and frankly that the services that they have been giving are of inestimable value to the Government. At the same time I am sure the honourable member knows that Government are not altogether callous or negligent to this question as has been suggested here. They have already spent more than a lakh of rupees in order to find food and in many cases to find the railway fare for the evacuees who are coming from Burma either by road or by boat. And I am sure that if a perfect understanding is established between these non-official agencies and the members of the Sheriff's Committee which has been set up in Calcutta, the work will proceed very smoothly. These

evacuees are being housed temporarily in *dharamsallas* and in *musafir-khanas* and arrangements are being made to provide them with coupons and tickets which will entitle them to draw upon the resources of the Government in the way of temporary relief, I do think, Sir, that it is a bit of exaggeration to say that Government are not doing anything in the matter. It may be that on certain occasions when the Hon'ble Leader of the Congress Party had visited these railway stations he could not spot out any Government officer. It is just possible. He has also given me the credit of not being aware of this particular fact. I am grateful to him for having brought this to my notice. I shall at once try to find out what the exact position is.

I do not know if it is necessary for me to give an indication of the measures which have been adopted for Civil Defence, because these are more or less known to the members of the House. Sir, it has been suggested that Government are taking these protective measures and spending large sums of money for the purpose of providing these protective measures at the expense of the nation-building services. We agree that for the time being nation-building services have had to slow down to an extent which we do not like at all. None of us in this House would like that, but at the same time the overwhelming consideration for providing protective measures for the civil population who are not aware and cannot in the nature of things be aware of the military preparations which have been made, the overwhelming need for providing civil protective measures of a population cannot be overlooked. It is from that point of view that such an enormous provision has had to be made in our budget for the purpose of Civil Defence work. At the same time honourable members are well aware that the major part of this bill will be footed by the Government of India. Most of the money will come from them just as a large part of the amount which is being spent or will be spent by the Corporation of Calcutta will travel down to its coffers from the Provincial Government. Ultimately it is the Government of India which have taken a tremendous amount of financial responsibility in these matters. If money comes to us and the Government of India indicate the lines on which this money should be spent, why should we say that we do not want this money, we shall not spend all this for the purpose of providing Civil Defence measures when we find that we cannot divert any part of the money for nation-building purposes within the province itself. That is the position.

Now, Sir, I do not think that I should at this stage trouble the House by giving a catalogue of what has been done for the purpose of providing these protective measures and providing hospital beds and other first aid arrangements. It is probably known that already about 10,000 extra beds have been provided in and around Calcutta for Air Raid casualties. It is also probably known that First Aid Parties

have been organised, although I must say that they are very much undermanned and public support, sympathy and co-operation are needed in that respect.

As regards the provision against fire, extra arrangements have been made, and I think I ought to tell the House at this stage that in Calcutta provision has been made for 900 operatives. The strength of the Fire Brigade has been raised from 200 to 900. Additional fire stations are now under consideration. Reserve depôts, barracks and training schools have been provided for. Additional equipment has been ordered and is on its way. The additional cost of these schemes for Calcutta amounts nearly to Rs. 40 lakhs and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 62,000. The mufassal areas have been inspected by the Chief Officer of the Calcutta Fire Brigade. He has made his recommendations and those recommendations are being implemented. So far as mufassal areas are concerned a Fire Adviser to the Government has been appointed who is himself a retired Chief Officer of the Calcutta Frie Brigade.

In Calcutta water has been stored already in certain tanks for fire-fighting purposes; approaches to tanks, *nullas* and canals are being broadened and improved and 130 underground reservoirs are being built in Calcutta. Mobile canvas containers have been purchased and have been fitted on to lorries.

(At this stage the Hon'ble Minister reached his time-limit, but was allowed to speak for five minutes more.)

In the mufassal areas trailor pumps have been provided and fire-fighting squads formed. Other trailor pumps have been ordered.

As an adjunct to the Fire Brigade and trailor pump squads street fire parties equipped with stirrup pumps are being formed both in Calcutta and in the mufassal. I regret to announce to the House that so far as street fire parties are concerned there has not been sufficient response from the public to join these parties. Under the circumstances I am thinking of reorganising the entire street fire party organisation and to form house protection parties on a non-official basis which will be provided with pumps and other fire-fighting appliances on certain conditions.

The next important branch of Civil Defence is First Aid to those who may get injured in an Air Raid. First Aid Parties have been formed both in Calcutta and in the mufassal. Motor vehicles are being requisitioned and purchased and converted into ambulances and transport for sitting cases. There is still room for many more men and women in the First Aid Services and progress now depends entirely on the pace of recruitment. I do appeal to every member of the House to help the Government in the recruitment of First Aid workers in the First Aid Parties.

Associated with First Aid is the provision of hospital arrangements for Air Raid casualties. I have already said that about 10,000 beds have been provided in Calcutta industrial area; 150 additional beds at Chittagong, 100 beds at Asansol and 50 beds at Kulti Hospital for Barakar industrial area have been sanctioned and are being pushed through. Enrolment of additional nurses is proceeding and male nurses are being trained.

The Corporation of Calcutta must be given its due share of praise in coming forward most energetically in helping Government in all these measures. The Calcutta Corporation have drawn up 12 schemes for Civil Defence most of which relate to the maintenance of communications and essential services. Mobile repair parties have been established and provided with transports. Stocks of necessary repair materials have been accumulated. Camps for essential labour have been prepared or are being prepared for housing conservancy staff and other essential services. Water and drainage pumping stations have been protected, and an alternative water-supply of 2,500 tube-wells has been provided in Calcutta at a cost of about Rs. 15½ lakhs.

Now, Civil Defence schemes of the following municipalities on similar lines have been examined and sanctioned so far—(1) Serampore, (2) Baidyabati, (3) Kharda, (4) Budge-Budge, (5) Barrackpore, (6) Rishra-Konnagar, (7) Hooghly-Chinsurah, (8) Tittaghur, (9) Bhadreswar, (10) Tollygunge, (11) South Suburban, (12) Bally, (13) Champdani, (14) Uttarpara, (15) Garden Reach, (16) Kotrung, (17) Chittagong, (18) Bansbaria, (19) Howrah. The total non-recurring costs of these schemes come up to one lakh fifty thousand approximately and the total recurring cost will come up to about Rs. 10,000 per month. Schemes of other areas are now under examination.

Steps are being taken for meeting the possible outbreak of epidemics in the threatened areas. A scheme for the establishment of four infectious diseases hospitals in the Calcutta industrial area has been prepared and steps are being taken to set up two of these hospitals as early as possible.

A scheme for the enforcement of the Epidemic Diseases Act in the threatened areas is ready. Arrangements have been made for the storage of vaccine lymph and cholera vaccine sufficient for several months' consumption at a safe place outside the vulnerable areas.

Provision has been made on as large a scale as is practicable for the construction of slit trenches which form an excellent protection from bombs. In addition and particularly for congested *basti* areas public shelter in well-built *pucca* houses are being provided. Work is now going on in 500 such houses with the object of making them thoroughly safe. Brick street shelters are also being built where

there is room for them in the streets. I will invite those who do not believe this statement to accompany me and have a personal inspection.

Now, Sir, in this way apart from shelter afforded by *pucca* private houses shelter from bombs is being provided for considerably more than 25 per cent. of the population. I suppose that is an achievement upon which any Government can honestly feel proud. If it can provide accommodation for more than 25 per cent. of the population and can work up to that standard, it will be something on which, I think, this House can congratulate itself. This figure has been worked out on the basis of what has been done in London and other bombed areas and from that point of view our standard is not at all behindhand.

Schemes have been framed for the relief of persons bombed out of their houses. Relief centres are being organised for housing and feeding such people both in Calcutta and in mufassal Air Raid stations. Kitchens are being organised in Calcutta from which food will go out not only to these relief centres but also to Civil Defence workers and those in other essential services.

Other schemes have been taken in hand to give relief to such people as may escape by road from Calcutta and other congested areas in the event of air raids. In Calcutta the Corporation have undertaken to keep the retail shops open in the markets. Arrangements are now being made by the Commerce Department for ensuring a sufficient reserve of essential foodstuffs which may tide Calcutta over any temporary difficulty of communication.

The greatest need of Civil Defence at the present moment is greater keenness and more enthusiasm on the part of the public and immediate recruitment of large numbers of workers, both men and women. The work is being done by various departments and various authorities. Government are now taking steps for a better co-ordination of their work and for better contact between them and the representatives of the public.

May I conclude my observations with an appeal, most earnest appeal to every member of the House, particularly the members of the Opposition, to come forward and assist Government in the measures that they have adopted and contemplate to adopt.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, during the last three days I have listened with great attention to the remarks which have fallen from different parts of the House regarding budget proposals for 1942-43.

Sir, one of the remarks which has come in for a good deal of criticism from several members is that I said that my budget was in

the nature of a war budget. As the House will recall, I explained that only in a limited sense, permitted as we were to deal with Civil Defence of considerable magnitude, my budget was in the nature of a war budget. I don't like war, particularly when I know that my country is unarmed and unprepared and cannot face a modern war. But I have heard with some interest the remarks of those very members who did not like my using that expression, and most of the remarks of the members have dealt with nothing but the war. The reason is obvious. The reason is that we all feel that the present budget discussion is rather out of touch with the realities of the grave situation that confronts us to-day. The Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition in one portion of his speech referred, and referred eloquently, to the lack of military preparedness of Bengal and to the undeniable fact that the Bengalees to-day are not in a position actively to defend their hearth or home in a manner which every patriotic son and daughter of Bengal would like to do. I don't think that there is any difference of opinion between the present Ministry and the opinion which has been expressed by the Leader of the Opposition. But may I ask him as perhaps the main moving spirit behind the past Ministry that misruled over Bengal for 4½ years, may I ask him, Sir, as the Home Minister of the past Ministry, what steps did the past Government take since September, 1939, to get those essential privileges for the people of Bengal so that they could be ready from the military standpoint to defend their province when the time came? May I remind him that even on a question like the extension of the University Training Corps when we wanted facilities to be given in the mufassal towns in this province to enable young Bengalees to join the corps in larger numbers, there were the usual obstacles and difficulties that people could not be trusted and as such institutions could not be organised in the mufassal centres. But let us not quarrel to-day about what he did or what he did not do. This is a point of view which he has given expression to, which I have also emphasised in some portions of my budget statement, which I may incidentally remind Mr. Suhrawardy were not dictated by my Secretary or the Secretariat. I have seen during the last two months that there are many things which were dictated by the Secretariat to which the past Ministers had meekly submitted themselves and it will take some time before we can turn a new leaf and create a new tradition of administration in Bengal. But so far as this question is concerned, I put in that statement as representing the viewpoint of every Bengalee and every lover of Bengal irrespective of caste or community. The Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition knows that this relates to a sphere of activity over which the provincial Government has no power under the constitution. The Ministry wants that without a moment's delay the present attitude should be changed and if the Leader of the Opposition and also other leaders of other sections of the House and the general public outside strengthen the hands of the Ministry to enable it to put

forward this demand which it has already put forward—I can say that without disclosing any secret—I believe it may be possible to achieve the object which is dearest to our hearts.

With regard to Civil Defence, we are fully aware of the fact that without proper co-ordination of Civil Defence and Military Defence, it is impossible to defend the country against the ravages of a modern war, but we have to face facts. To-day standing as we do, we have not any control over the military side. That is a fact. What does the Leader of the Opposition, what do the members of the Opposition, want us to do? Because we have nothing to do with Military Defence, shall we sit tight and say that we are not going to take any step whatsoever for the Civil Defence of the people of this province? After all, even if measures are taken to the fullest extent from the military point of view, Civil Defence is necessary. That has been shown in a city like London which was fully prepared to meet the attack from the enemy side. Even then, London was bombed and bombed in a manner which let us hope and pray Calcutta will not be bombed. They had their machinery ready. They had their civil population trained and prepared, and they had got them all ready to meet the emergency of that situation. And what have we tried to do during the last two months? We have tried to put into effect those essential schemes of Civil Defence, without which we consider life and property would not be at all safe in this city and in many other parts of the province. Some members of the Opposition yesterday and the day before tried to cut a joke that we have made some arrangements for *Murda-farash*. That is not the point of view from which we would like to look at this grave responsibility, for after all if by the efforts of the public, it is possible to save the lives of some individuals or make misery less intolerable, are we not doing a duty which every civilized Government is expected to do? I believe, Sir, that it is not possible for us to do what it is our duty to do unless we can get to our side the active and willing co-operation of all sections of the public. Here I would make my appeal specially to the Leader of the Opposition. Whatever opposition he wants to put forward against the present Ministry in other spheres, so far as this sphere of activity is concerned, viz., saving Calcutta and Bengal from the effects of air raids, we hope it will be possible for us to depend on his co-operation and also on the co-operation of other sections of the House which cannot be entirely identified with Government to-day.

With regard to the details of Civil Defence measures, discussions on these detailed items will take place when we proceed with the budget next week. I was rather struck by the manner in which one member of the Opposition at any rate, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, put his point of view before the House. He made some constructive suggestions, particularly in the sphere of economic stability of the province. He raised the question of transport. He raised the question of increased supply of foodstuffs and also the question of labour. I can assure

him that we appreciate such constructive suggestions and these are indeed spheres of work which are already engaging the serious attention of Government, but these are matters in respect of which we are not entirely by ourselves in a position to make the final decision. Take the question of transport. Take the question of wheat. There was an apprehension of shortage of wheat a few weeks ago. Wheat was available in the Punjab, but wheat was not coming to Bengal because there was shortage of transport, because there were demands for wheat from other quarters, over which Bengal has no control. What did we do? We sent out our officer to Delhi. There was a conference and there has been some adjustment. The Commissioner of Wheat was himself in Calcutta and we have been able to secure some measure of supply of this essential foodstuff for the future use of Calcutta. I am just giving this by way of illustration. Take, for instance, the question of transport. Before the question was raised here, one problem which is engaging the attention of Government and its officers is that if railway transport breaks down, either on account of other urgent calls on the railways on account of military operations or on account of bombing raids or for other reasons, why should we not be able to provide for river transport? Why should we not be able to explore the possibility of having an alternative route by means of river transport? That is a question which we have taken steps to enquire into. Then again, there is another big problem. Calcutta has to depend for a number of food commodities on supplies from places outside Bengal. For instance, we use mustard oil, but mustard comes from the United Provinces. I am not entering into details so far as these things are concerned, but these are questions which the Agriculture Department must tackle. And it has already started taking necessary steps in that direction. Why should we not look ahead and make provision for increased production of foodstuffs for Bengal so that Bengal may be self-sufficient to as large an extent as possible. Should there not be effective scheme for decentralisation, for instance, even within the province, there may be a deadlock and it may be possible for us to organise each district in such a manner that it may supply its essential food requirements during the period of emergency? I am mentioning these topics for this reason that these are problems which, in my opinion, should have been tackled by the previous Government. They should not have left things to be decided after the 12th of December, 1941. When we took over charge of office we found there was no scheme, there was no policy; and all that was left to us was a legacy of debts. We had to consider *de novo* these vital questions.

With regard to the main criticisms which have been put forward by the members of the Opposition that this budget does not disclose any big scheme or any big policy, I do not want to minimise the difficulties which confronted us when it fell to my lot to prepare the budget estimates for 1942-43. We took over charge of administration after 16th

December, 1941, and the meeting of the Cabinet at which the budget had to be passed was held on 6th or 7th January, 1942. It was really impossible for any Government—I do not and I cannot say much about that superman who occupied that office before I came here—but I believe that it is impossible for any human being to reshape the policy and administration of a province like Bengal during a period of emergency within this short period of two or three weeks. We recognise at the same time that there are items of expenditure which require re-investigation in the best interest of the province, and as I indicated in the Budget Statement, I would welcome wholeheartedly any constructive suggestion coming from any side of the House indicating the manner in which the present Ministry should scrutinize the budget estimates so as to represent the real welfare of the people of this province. I shall not deal very much with Mr. Suhrawardy. In fact, I know him so well that if I start talking about him, I might be saying things which he at any rate will not very much like. Sir, Mr. Suhrawardy talked about plans and schemes. What sort of plans and schemes did he envisage when he presented the budget last year? I find from his own quotation, "provision was made for marketing of cottage industry products." I was just enquiring why big sums of money are lapsing at the end of the financial year touching upon the activities of the nation-building departments for which the Opposition is shedding crocodile tears to-day. (At this stage Mr. Fazlur Rahman intervened.) One gentleman has started interrupting me: it is Mr. Fazlur Rahman, Chairman of the Technical Education Advisory Committee. What was the great policy of the past Government in appointing these Committees? You in the Opposition helped in the appointment of a Technical Advisory Committee and placed at the head of the Committee a person who knew nothing about technical education.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. (Loud noise from the Coalition Benches.)

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, when I am on my own legs I am not going to give in in favour of any personal explanation.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, when the Hon'ble Minister is talking without sufficient knowledge, certainly I am entitled to speak by way of offering a personal explanation.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I did not utter a single word about him until the honourable member interrupted me, and I am not going to give in when I am in possession of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Rahman, you are only attempting to explain your position which you can do later on. I have nothing to decide in the present case unless it be a point of order.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, I rise on a point of order. My point of order is that personal explanations have been allowed in this Assembly during the speeches of Hon'ble Ministers in the past, and I crave your indulgence, Sir, to allow me to offer a personal explanation now under your Chairmanship.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order, and I will decide the point whether you can offer a personal explanation or not later on. If necessary, I will give you a chance to explain your position later on.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: That is with regard to cottage industry products. Provision of several lakhs of rupees was made in the last budget for marketing of cottage industries and the whole amount has lapsed for want of schemes and ideas. Pray do not forget the budget was passed in March, 1941, and the last Ministry gave up its office in December, 1941.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Ask your Chief Minister.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Yes, everything is to be referred to the Chief Minister and not to other ex-Ministers, for the latter were there simply to exploit the former.

The next item I wish to refer to is the Fisheries Department. "There is a proposal for the inclusion of Rs. 80,000 for the development of the Fisheries Department," these high-sounding words were voiced in the Finance Minister's statement last year. His scheme was ready. But up till now nothing has been done and the money is going to lapse. I have given two instances taken at random. I say that you will find no such camouflage in the Budget Statement of the present Finance Minister.

Let me come to a bigger general issue now. It is being asked, what has this Ministry done since 16th December, 1941? Two months have elapsed and within this period you expected us to do great things while you could do nothing during the long period you had been in office. Later, Sir, somebody has said that the present budget estimates represent a mountain producing a mouse. If I may use another metaphor with a similar motive, Sir, like bloated frogs, speaker after speaker has got up and repeated his master's voice and thundered and thundered that the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq is a betrayer and a traitor and that there is no hope for the province so long as he is not removed from his office. (At this stage there were cries of "Certainly he is"

from the Muslim League Benches.) Let me, Sir, remind my friends to the left—let them have a little patience—how did the year 1937-38, the first year of provincial autonomy, start; with the Niemeyer Award Bengal got something; financially Bengal was bankrupt before that because of the Meston Award. I was just calculating the extra sum which came not into the pocket, not entirely of the ex-Finance Minister, but certainly into the coffers of the province of Bengal. The extra sum which came during their period of office was the modest sum of Rs. 7 crores and 50 lakhs, if you take 1937-38 to be the basic year. Now, Sir, where has this 7 crores and 50 lakhs gone? That answer Bengal will demand from the honourable members who now occupy the Opposition Benches. Seven crores and 50 lakhs were available for the use of nation-building departments.

Sir, let me summarise very briefly what the reason is. The reason is——

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Your calculation is wrong.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Yes, everything that I say is wrong, because you never said nor did the right thing when you were expected to do so.

The reason is very simple. The reason is that there was no scheme; there was no planned organisation of the province. It was simply a case of spending for the purposes which Mr. Mohammed Ali and Mr. Ispahani have said—patronage, bribery and jobbery.

I liked Mr. Siddiqi—I am sorry he has left his place—I liked the way in which he started yesterday asking me in a tone which I much appreciated that as Finance Minister I should look into the activities of certain people—contractors, agents of contractors and their sub-agents—persons behind the scenes. I thought here was a chance for the new Finance Minister. We were getting confidential information of technical processes, of how the past Ministry used to conduct itself. I thought he would continue to be communicative and his next reference would relate to the secrets of the *fatka* market, the mysteries of the Pretoria Street and perhaps even the great epic of Jaguar car. But, alas, Mr. Siddiqi suddenly stopped by mentioning only about the contractors, agents of contractors and sub-agents of contractors. He is not here, but I am going to make a request to him that he may write confidentially and I shall not betray him—and, of course, he will not be transgressing the law of libel. And Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, after all, has not entirely forgotten the relationship between him and me and in his sober moments he may take me into his confidence and strengthen my hands in purifying the administration of the effects of these obnoxious things for which he and his colleagues were responsible for all these years.

We know, Sir, that it is a very difficult time. We know that it is not possible for us to administer this province peacefully unless we can carry all communities and all parties with us. It was, therefore, with a good deal of deliberation that I on behalf of my colleagues made that appeal for harmony, for a truce at any rate.

Now, Sir, extracts were read out the other day of speeches which I am supposed to have delivered. (Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: "You didn't?") I didn't. Many of those things have been taken out from where? They came as a surprise to me. They were taken from the C. I. D. reports——(Continued interruptions from the Muslim League Benches.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. When Sir Nazimuddin spoke, there was no disturbance; when Mr. Suhrawardy spoke, there was no disturbance. I hope there will be no disturbance when the Hon'ble Finance Minister is speaking.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, the reason why my friends to the left are getting so agitated is that my remarks are in the nature of home thrusts. My accusations are going a bit deep and deeper. I can well appreciate the discomfort they are suffering from. So far as those alleged speeches are concerned, they are not taken from any public documents. They are supposed to be extracts made under the direction of the previous Ministry from C. I. D. reports—I had that verified yesterday afternoon after I went back from this place—which were, I believe, in the possession of the past Home Minister or his brother, the ex-Chief Whip. I approached, the same department which was directed to make these extracts for some pious purpose, which, I believe, the then Home Minister had in view. The same department has collected from the very same C. I. D. reports other sentences which give a lie direct to the statements which were collected and which through some unknown agency found their place in the columns of the *Star of India*. I shall not refer to that portion any longer. But I shall refer to the attacks—most filthy attacks—made on the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq. I do not hold any brief for him, but it is my duty to point this out because it does not concern him alone—it concerns us who have joined the same Cabinet and have openly accepted his leadership; I shall say this, Sir —blame as much as you like Mr. Fazlul Huq; we can appreciate the motives for the blame because he has ousted you from office and patronage. But forget not that what he has done, the courage that he has shown indicates the only line of solution if Bengal or India is to be saved. (Cries of "Hear! hear!" from the Coalition Benches.) Whether we succeed or not is a different matter. It will depend on

various factors, but he has given the correct lead which in spite of the criticisms which self-seekers in the Opposition had levelled against him and against his Ministry was a lead of which he alone was capable.

Sir, let me ask you what exactly is the grievance against the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq? The grievance presumably is that he has broken Muslim solidarity. Who has broken Muslim solidarity? The late Finance Minister Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy sitting over there, more than anybody else. Who is the great friend of the Hindus who have been helped to form this Ministry with the nationalist Muslims? Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy. You ask me why? The answer is simple. If he had accepted Mr. Huq's first suggestion, which any self-respecting Minister would have accepted, and had resigned when the Chief Minister asked him to resign, would there have been a coalition such as we have to-day? Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy might have lost his control over the *fatka* market and over Jaguar car, but the Ministry would have remained under the control of the Muslim League. I take off my hat to Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy. In one moment of extreme selfishness, misjudging the power of the hands that fed him and others for 4½ years, he found the way of saving Bengal from aggressive communalism——

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister is making personal allegations.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Suhrawardy did not hesitate to make personal aspersions unworthy of the position which he occupied but nothing unnatural for him. When he did not hesitate in casting reflections on us, he forgot he lived in a house of glass and that glass was now breaking down. It is necessary that on the floor of the House he should get the reply which he fully deserves.

Sir, I now pass on to the question of the Defence of India Rules. That question has been raised by the Opposition and a good deal of stress has been laid on that point. Speaking for myself, I say this without hesitation that I do not like the fact that during the last two months of our office, we have not been able to deal with the problem in the manner in which we should like to see it resolved. But I would add this much. It is not the fault of the present Ministry, but the application and misapplication of the Defence of India Rules are the direct products of the administration of Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin. There is one English word which applies to him more than it applies to anybody else in the province to-day and that is "Nemesis". He allowed things to be done which were never contemplated by law. Orders were passed which had nothing to do with the Defence of India and he has created a machinery—Sir, we now appreciate the reason why he was regarded as the "pet boy" of many

authorities—but he has created a machinery which it will take some time for any Ministry to dissolve, but we are determined to tackle this question which will be to the best interests of the province. There is a question of application of the Defence of India Rules against Muslim League workers. I hate, Sir, the application of the Defence of India Rules against anybody whether he belongs to the Muslim League, or Hindu Mahasabha, or to the Congress. Where was Sir Nazimuddin's conscience when the Defence of India Rules were applied in Dinajpur for the immersion of goddess Durga? What about Kulti? Where was his conscience when Defence of India Rules were applied in numerous other cases? The reply then given was that that was done in the public interest, but I can give him this assurance and not only to him but to the members of the Opposition that not in one single instance affecting these Muslim League workers was the order for prosecution under the Defence of India Rules given by the Home Minister or the Government in Calcutta. If it can be proved that any order emanated from the Chief Minister, that such and such persons should be proceeded with under the Defence of India Rules, then we shall cheerfully abide by the verdict of the House itself, but it was not done. It was done through the machinery which has been placed in authority to-day. Powers were previously delegated to officers and they were asked to follow a certain policy of arrests and detention. Now, the sword falls on the Muslim League itself. That is not the fault of the Muslim League so much, but that is the fault of the policy which Sir Nazimuddin himself introduced, hardly dreaming that a day might come when it might act as a boomerang on men dear to him. Sir, the question has been raised that students have been hauled up, students have been expelled, under the orders of the Chief Minister, of the Education Minister. The students were asked—I have it on the authority of those persons who are responsible for the discipline of that institution—the students were simply asked to apologise to the Education Minister for their misbehaviour. (Voices from the Opposition: "No, no.") And who was the man who asked the students not to do so? It was Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy himself. (Interruptions from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sir Nazimuddin, will you please ask your party members to keep order?

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The statement of the Hon'ble Minister is not correct.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, when the time comes for consideration of the detailed heads of the budget, I am sure, when each case is taken up—I have got the file here, I have got the answers to the allegations which have been made, dealing with

each and every case, but I have not time to go through them now—when time comes after a few days to deal with the detailed heads of the budget, I have no doubt, Sir, that the Home Minister will be able to explain matters in such a way that no person who has any sense of impartiality will have reason to object to what has been done. And who passed the order for the withdrawal of the Defence of India Rules against the students themselves? That order went from Calcutta under the direction of the Chief Minister himself who did not want that any student should, if at all possible, be prosecuted under the Defence of India Rules. You may go on shaking your heads as much as you like, but you can never turn falsehood into truth and truth into falsehood.

I can say this for this reason that when the direction was given by the Chief Minister to the then Secretary, I was sitting in his room and when the message was dictated that was done in my presence. So I am not going to believe the unfounded and uncorroborated statement of Mr. Suhrawardy.

Sir, I shall leave this question so far as the Defence of India Rules is concerned. There were two items to which specific reference was made by several speakers, and I believe some word of explanation is due. Alarm was rightly expressed at the increased provision of additional jails. Now when that item came before us, we had it enquired into especially, and I can give this assurance to the House that it is not the intention of Government to increase the number of jails for enlarging the number of convicts or security prisoners. The reason is this: the additional jails have to be constructed for the purpose of removing the jails from the danger zones. It is possible that if Calcutta or any other place where jails are at present situated is bombed and if the dangerous convicts get away, naturally the Legislature or the public may blame the Government for not taking steps for preventing the dangerous consequences which will follow such an event. I can give this assurance to the House that the policy behind this extra provision is not due to the reasons which have been adumbrated by various members, but for the reasons which I have given. With regard to police, Sir, it is true that an enlarged provision has been made in the budget. That includes, as we have seen from the Red Book, provision for the civic guards and also for extra provision for police in some areas. Now here again the reasons which weighed with Government were that lest in case of emergency the forces of law and order should prove inadequate, it would be desirable that some extra provision should be made on this head, but I can give this assurance that every item of additional expenditure under "Police" is being and will be very strictly scrutinised by the Ministry, so that whenever such an item is brought before the House, we can justify it on grounds of public safety and public safety alone.

Sir, Mr. Suhrawardy talked a lot about his own financial administration. Reference was made by Dr. Sanyal and some other speakers to the huge sum—nearly 2 crores of rupees—which has been overspent this year without the vote of the Legislature. That discussion will take place to-morrow or the day after. I need not go into the details of that question to-day, but I can assure all sections of the House that the present Ministry, at any rate myself, were not at all satisfied with the explanation given by the late Finance Minister. An injustice has been done to the House and it was clearly the duty of the ex-Finance Minister to have brought this matter to the notice of the House in good time, so that the House could have shared the responsibility with him for such a huge expenditure.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: What is that?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: You have forgotten that. That is quite natural.

Now, Sir, the other point which was raised was this. That also came as another big surprise from Mr. Suhrawardy. He complained that the amount from Sales Tax had not been used for nation-building activities. The then Finance Minister gave the assurance to the members of the Legislature that this extra taxation would be spent only for the nation-building departments. Now, that was again another bit of camouflage. I find, Sir,—it is very interesting—that four months before we came—and the ex-Finance Minister knows it very well unless he allowed his Secretary to deal with the matter without his own knowledge at all—four months before we came, the last Ministry decided that there was no question of using any portion of the proceeds of the new taxation for any nation-building expenditure, because the entire amount and even more would be required for meeting the huge deficit which was going to accrue at the end of the year. May I request him even now to take his own party into confidence, because I find that actually this statement was put in just as a bit of window-dressing in order to persuade the then Coalition Party to support the taxation proposals?

I have seen the mystery of the high sounding few lines at the end of his last Budget Statement: We are asking the people to face this new taxation because otherwise we cannot proceed with the nation-building departments. He did not add how he had absorbed all the seven crores. He then knew very well that the year was coming to an end with a deficit and he did not intend to keep his promise. Here again, we have not come before the House with any such camouflage. We tell you what is the position in the province to-day. (Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: "Hoo! hoo! hoo!") I know Mr. Suhrawardy's partiality for these zoological-garden manners. He has not forgotten them yet. He can make these sounds, but they hardly produce any

effect. So far as the present Ministry is concerned, our attitude is only this, that money is not available now. We are not asking the House to accept any new proposals of fresh taxation. At present, we are only asking the House to face the situation manfully. We know that there are limitations under the constitution. We cannot do all that we, the servants of the people, would like to do. When the time comes either by way of supplementary demands or in connection with the budget of next year, it would be possible for us to lay before you our entire programme and policy.

Before I resume my seat, the only assurance which I give to the House and through the House to the public is that we would not like to hoodwink the Legislature or the people of the province when we shall prepare our schemes. We know our limitations. (Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy demurred.) The honourable member always thinks of his own experiences, and he will never think of the possibilities of other people's experience. When we prepare our schemes and place them before you, that will be the time when you can criticise and if constructive criticisms come—we don't say that we are infallible—we shall be willing and prepared to accept such suggestions.

The last point which I would like to deal with is about the Secondary Education Bill. I find, Sir, that the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition dealt with this question. He says that he knows that the Hon'ble Chief Minister will not even produce the draft of the Secondary Education Bill before this session comes to an end. The only reply which I shall give is that the Hon'ble Chief Minister and his colleagues have gone into this question, and they do not intend to give up the Secondary Education Bill. The Secondary Education Bill will come, but it will be a measure which will be calculated to advance the interests of education and not drawn up on the lines on which Mr. Shahabuddin and his friends would like to see it drawn up. (Cries of "When, when" from the Opposition Benches.) I see the impatience of members, and I give this further assurance that before the session concludes, our idea is that the draft Bill will be laid before the House. That assurance I give on behalf of the Chief Minister and on behalf of myself and my other colleagues. We have already gone into the question and we are getting ready with our proposals. Of course, this is always subject to the proviso, God forbid, that nothing happens which is outside our control. If the House itself does not meet or if anything like that happens, then of course it is a different question. If the House continues to do its normal work till the end of March, we desire to place the revised Secondary Education Bill before the House.

There are two matters referred to by my friend Mr. Gladding. So far as the use of Treasury Bills is concerned, Mr. Gladding will recall that the circumstances of the current year when we had that huge contribution to make by way of loan for the relief of people in certain

districts of the province created a situation which was embarassing to the Government. But the point of view which he has expressed is within the knowledge of Government, and I hope that such an occasion may not arise in future.

With regard to the recovery of loans to cultivators, that also is a matter which is engaging the attention of Government. Mr. Suhrawardy has made complaints arising out of his recent tours—in fact, I was interested to find in one of his speeches somewhere he said—that he was sorry he did not mix with people much more when he was a Minister and he realised that if he had done so, he would have been very happy and the people would also have been happier. Wisdom is dawning upon him and he is supposed to have seen there that there were attempts on the part of officers to extract forcibly the agricultural loan from the people. Now, that is a statement without any foundation because whenever reports have reached Government, we have given instructions that although Government realise that these are loans which are to be recovered, they must be spread over one year, two years or even three years as occasion may demand.

With regard to Mr. Gladding's suggestion that a statement might be laid before the House as regards the nature of recovery made, that suggestion has been noted and we shall take necessary action.

Sir, I do not desire to take up much longer time. I have finished. The last thing I would say is this. I might have used strong words, perhaps I attacked some members, but I did so only with a view to point out that those who attacked us had no legs to stand upon. I realise this is not the time when we can go on quarrelling between ourselves in this way. What we want to do is to promote communal harmony. If Japan comes, then there will be no Hindu-Muslim question. Even the Pakisthan scheme of Mr. Jinnah will pale into insignificance in this province when we are attacked or when the country is in danger. (A voice from the Opposition Benches: "Veer Savarkar may help!") Mr. Savarkar will not be able to help you, though he would very much like to, if you approach him when it is too late.

This is just the time when we should sink our differences. There are certain vital issues on which we may have to fight later on, but if we are agreed on the essential things that we want, then it is imperative that we should sink our differences and present a united front.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Stop repression.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: We shall stop repression provided there is repression. We cannot stop repression if there is no repression. If there are any legitimate grievances felt by the Opposition and if there are any misunderstandings, we are willing to sit round the table and know exactly what they are. But

let us carry on the administration in a manner which will command the confidence, the willing confidence and co-operation, of Hindus and Muslims alike and also of all political parties who in spite of their local differences must to-day place the interests of the province in the fore-front.

Adjournment.

It being 12-38 p.m., the House was adjourned till 8-30 a.m. on Wednesday, the 25th February, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 25th February, 1942, at 8-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 7 Hon'ble Ministers and 197 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Death of a student in police custody.

***81. Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether he has received any memorial from the Students' Union of the Vidyasagar College for an enquiry into the circumstances that led to the death of a 17-year old son of a Professor of the said college on the 16th July last while the boy was in police custody?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any enquiry has been made into the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has read the report of the death of the boy and the Coroner's inquest into it in the newspapers?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the representation sent to Government he will be pleased to institute an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I shall certainly look into the matter.

Damage caused by cyclone and flood to schools and madrassas at Noakhali.

*82. **Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of—

(1) secondary schools, and

(2) madrassas

which have been demolished or severely damaged at Noakhali by the cyclone and flood in May last;

(*ii*) the number of the primary schools under the District School Board which have been damaged by the cyclone; and

(*iii*) the amount of money that will be required for reconstruction or repair of such secondary schools and madrassas and the primary school buildings?

(*b*) Do the Government contemplate advancing or contributing any money for the reconstruction of the school and madrassa buildings?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION, COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): (*a*)(*i*) (1) 108 and (2) 53.

(*ii*) 817.

(*iii*) Rs.2,42,942.

(*b*) Government are advancing towards reconstruction of or repairs to secondary school buildings Rs.40,740 and madrassa buildings of Noakhali district Rs.14,680—Total Rs.55,420.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: In view of the reply (*a*) (*iii*) and (*b*), namely that the total amount that will be required for reconstruction of school buildings is Rs. 2,42,942, and the amount proposed to be advanced by Government is Rs. 55,420, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of increasing the amount so as to meet the cost of reconstruction of the buildings damaged by the cyclone?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The financial position of Government will not permit of any further increase this year.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the standard at which money is being advanced?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The amount allowed works out at 25 per cent. of the total amount required for repairs.

Free primary schools under Tippera District School Board.

***83. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of free primary schools maintained by the District School Board that have been started in each subdivision of the Tippera district since the introduction of the Free Primary Education Scheme there;

(*ii*) the places where they have been started;

(*iii*) how many of them are for (1) males and (2) females; and

(*iv*) the number of (1) boys and (2) girls that have been enrolled in those schools?

(*b*) Is there any free primary school in the district of Tippera which is now maintained by the District Board of Tippera; if so, what are their numbers?

(*c*) What will be the recurring annual expenditure of the free primary schools which are maintained by the District School Board?

(*d*) What will be the income from the education cess?

(*e*) If there be a deficit, what steps the Government propose to take to make up the deficit?

(*f*) What was the number of such schools in the district of Tippera before the Free Primary Education Act was introduced?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM:

(*a*) (*i*)	Brahmanbaria	.	.	.. 406
	Sadar	...	...	... 626
	Chandpur	...	...	... 440
			Total	... 1,472

(*ii*) A statement furnishing the information is laid on the Library Table.

(*iii*) (1) 1,472.

(2) There is no free school for girls only.

(*iv*) (1) 164,344.

(2) 22,822.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Rs.7,04,832

(d) Rs.3,00,000.

(e) Government will make an attempt to meet the deficit provided the School Board strictly follows the principles laid down or to be laid down by Government.

(f) 230.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in places where there are free primary schools for boys no free primary schools for girls are allowed to be started?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware that they are not allowed to be started, but as a matter of fact there are no free primary schools for girls in such places.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is it a fact that if there is a free primary school for girls in such a place the District Board stipend, is stopped?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of that.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that for free primary schools for girls the School Board does not take into consideration the best sites available but that these schools are given sites unsuitable to them?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will see that the best places are selected as sites for free primary schools?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: As far as possible.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Does the Government consider the desirability of starting free primary schools for girls?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That is a matter primarily for the District School Board. But I may tell the House that if that is not done Government will then consider whether they can intervene.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is no provision for free primary schools for girls under the Act?

Mr. SPEAKER: You can see the Act itself.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot answer that without referring to the Act.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of the strained feelings of the general public against co-education in free primary schools?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: No.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to indicate the nature of attempt that Government will make in order to meet the deficit?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That is under contemplation.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if for the healthy administration of District School Boards these boards should be reconstituted?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is it a fact that there are only 230 primary schools in this district whereas in reply to a question put by me it was stated by the then Education Minister that there were 4,000 such schools in the district of Tippera?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I do not know that.

Construction of Alipur Duar-Falakata Road.

*84. **Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the Alipur Duar-Falakata Road project which was budgeted for the current year and for which tenders were also invited has been abandoned; and

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the proposed Torsa Bridge at Falakata on the aforesaid road could not also be constructed?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Has the work been actually taken up?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot say off-hand just now: I will enquire into it.

Starred Question No. 85.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: With reference to this question I may inform the House that I have been looking into the matter for some time and I wish to discuss the situation with the honourable member who has tabled this question and also with Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal. The question may therefore be held over for the present.

(The question was accordingly held over.)

Budget provision for helping cultivators with money for purchase of cattle.

***86. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken by Government for—

(*i*) helping the agriculturist for purchasing bullocks; and

(*ii*) providing pasture grounds?

(*b*) If no action has been taken, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of having a sum of a lakh of rupees earmarked in the next budget for the purpose?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca, Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department): (*a*) (*i*) No direct help is given for purchasing bullocks except by advancing agricultural loans as a relief

measure when the necessity for these arises. It is presumed that a considerable portion of the agricultural loans granted is utilised for the purchase of bullocks, though the loans are sanctioned for agricultural purposes generally and not specifically for the purchase of bullocks. Indirect help is also being given by providing for the breeding of better quality bullocks within the Province. A cattle improvement scheme is in operation in 23 districts of the Province. Under this scheme some 2,500 Hariana bulls have been distributed free during the past five years. It is estimated that at least 100,000 male progeny of these bulls is being born annually and they develop into first quality bullocks, thus making available to the cultivator efficient home-bred animals at cheaper cost.

(*ii*) The pressure on the land is already very heavy in this Province. Consequently every inch of cultivable land is required for producing human food. Further an acre of land when cropped with forage crops yields very much more fodder than when it is put under pasture grass. The department, therefore, encourage extension of cultivation of fodder crops, rather than increase of pasture grounds.

Free and uncontrolled grazing in forest areas is also incompatible with the conservation of the forest and, as such, it is the policy of Government not to allow it. Grazing is, however, allowed in certain blocks of forest on payment of scheduled rates of fees.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: With reference to answer (*a*), namely "It is presumed that a considerable portion of the agricultural loans granted is utilised for the purchase of bullocks", will the Lady Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether Government keeps any information that some portion of this money has actually been spent for the purchase of bullocks?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: It is Government's presumption: no information in this regard is at present available.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I in this connection ask the Lady Parliamentary Secretary that the answer to this question could have been made much more simple. Once before I had drawn the attention of the department concerned to avoid unnecessarily long answers, but I find that this department is still in the habit of preparing answers which are too long but which can easily be made more simple and concise.

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: All that I can say, Sir, is that I shall draw the attention of the department concerned.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Speaker, in this connection I beg to differ from the Hon'ble Speaker. Where the questions are put in this House——

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: It is not a question. I want to draw your attention to the fact that explanatory notes——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am speaking deliberately. I am prepared to discuss this matter with you. What I say is that I should draw the attention of Government to the fact that a reply like this is not what is wanted. It should be much simpler.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Lady Parliamentary Secretary please state since when this cattle improvement scheme, as referred to in answer (*a*), has been in operation in the various districts of the Province?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: The exact date is not known.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Lady Parliamentary Secretary please state what is the number of male progeny of these bulls which have developed into first quality bulls?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: This information is also not readily available.

Levy of education cess in Sundarban Estates of 24-Parganas.

***87. Maharaja SASHI KANTA ACHARYYA CHOUDHURY, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware of the imposition of education cess in the Sundarban Estates of the district of 24-Parganas?

(*b*) If so, will he be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount of cess realised from the said area during the last official year; and

(*ii*) the sum spent for the development of education therein?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking necessary steps to spend the full amount of cesses realised therefrom for the education of the people of the said area?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) Rs.1,28,000-15-9.

(*ii*) Rs.1,01,673.

(*c*) Schemes for primary education are drawn up by District School Boards for districts as a whole. It is not possible to cut districts into divisions and to require that each division should be allotted only the amount of cess realised from the division. Moreover, School Boards have other sources of income such as Government contributions.

Doubtless, however, the District School Board of the 24-Parganas is aware of the desirability of equalising expenditure on particular localities of the district so far as is practicable.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Sir, the difference between the figures given in (*b*) (*i*) and (*b*) (*ii*) is Rs. 27,000. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is done with that?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the amount that was realised from the Sundarban estates of 24-Parganas and the expenditure shown in (*ii*) were spent in the locality referred to in (*b*) (*i*)?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Not in the subdivision. From the answer it will appear clear that it was not spent in the subdivision exclusively.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: What is the territorial jurisdiction of the Sundarban Estates of 24-Parganas? How was the figure of collection arrived at?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It is more than I can tell you.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Rural reconstruction work in Bengal in 1940-41.

46. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries (Rural Reconstruction) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps have been taken in respect of the rural reconstruction work of the Province in the year 1940-41;

(*b*) the nature of work undertaken; and

(*c*) the amount spent for each kind of work in each district?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) and (*b*) A brief outline of the principal measures undertaken during the year 1940-41 is given below:—

(1) The training of local officers and non-official workers in rural reconstruction work with the help of the Circle Officers who were trained at Bishnupur Camp towards the close of the year 1939-40, in order that they might be able to rouse the consciousness of the people and prepare them for village uplift work.

(2) General training of the University and College students through a course of lectures delivered by experts, both official and non-official, on various rural reconstruction subjects.

(3) Co-ordination of the works of rural reconstruction undertaken on a voluntary basis through the enthusiasm of local official and non-official organisations, such as eradication of water-hyacinth, excavation of new *khals* and re-excavation of old ones, construction and repair of roads, etc.

(4) Formation of village welfare societies.

(5) Establishment of night schools and promotion of adult education generally.

(6) Publicity and propaganda of the rural uplift activities in the Province.

(*c*) The work is so far being done on a voluntary basis with practically no expenditure from the provincial revenues. The only expenditure incurred from provincial revenues during 1940-41 is an amount of Rs.1,500 given as grant for adult education work besides the pay and allowances of the Director of Rural Reconstruction and his office staff.

A statement is laid on the Table showing the amount spent in each district from the enhanced discretionary grant controlled by the Home Department. Figures for each kind of work are not available.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (c) of unstarred question No. 46.

	Amount spent for Rural Reconstruction work, district by district, during 1940-41.
	Rs.
Presidency Division—	
Murshidabad	2,300
Nadia	1,550
Jessore	8,875
Khulna	3,174
24-Parganas	1,455

	Amount spent for Rural Reconstruction work, district by district, during 1940-41.
	Rs.
Burdwan Division—	
Howrah	2,000
Hooghly	Nil
Burdwan	7,676
Birbhum	6,066
Midnapur	17,750
Bankura	5,715
Rajshahi Division—	
Jalpaiguri	2,300
Malda	1,350
Dinajpur	1,855
Darjeeling	2,270
Rajshahi	6,995
Pabna	1,515
Rangpur	Nil
Bogra	Nil
Dacca Division—	
Dacca	Nil
Bakarganj	4,664
Mymensingh	6,583
Faridpur	4,200
Chittagong Division—	
Tippera	2,050
Chittagong	1,500
Chittagong Hill Tracts	6,500
Noakhali	1,950

Appointment of Manager, Boot and Shoe Making Department, Bengal Tanning Institute.

47. Maulvi AZHAR ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the post of the Manager of Boot and Shoe Making Department in the Bengal Tanning Institute is vacant since June last; and

(*ii*) whether he has received any application for the post?

(*b*) If so, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of filling up the vacancy by a qualified and experienced Muslim candidate?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) (*i*) The post fell vacant on the 1st July, 1941.

(*ii*) The post was advertised and applications have been received.

(*b*) Yes, if one with requisite qualifications is available.

Alteration in the agenda of Business.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the next item of business is taken up, I want to draw your attention to one fact. We have got an order from the Governor for the partial modification of the agenda of to-day. In the agenda that was issued to us, 26th February was the date fixed for the discussion and voting of supplementary demands. Just now we have suddenly got the order that discussion and voting of supplementary demands will take place to-day, the 25th February.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I have got to explain it. There seems to have been a misunderstanding. I understand—I was not present all these days—that there was a desire from the Opposition that as to-day's business was expected to be finished shortly, we would have enough time and so instead of wasting that time, it could be profitably used for the general discussion of the supplementary demands. There is no desire on the part of the Government not to take it up to-morrow. In fact, they want to finish it to-morrow, but they want to utilise the time to-day.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, there is an adjournment motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: That will be taken up to-day.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: We are not ready for the discussion of the supplementary demands.

Mr. SPEAKER: Those who are not ready may take it up to-morrow, but those who are ready, let them speak to-day.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, then the adjournment motion will be taken up at 10 o'clock and the voting on supplementary demands will take place to-morrow.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Report of the Public Accounts Committee and Excess Grant, 1939-40.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Mookerjee, will you now place the report of the Public Accounts Committee?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, I take it there is no discussion on the Public Accounts Committee report.

Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor as recommended by the Committee of Public Accounts the Legislative Assembly do vote the demand of Rs. 1,862 under the head "11—Registration" representing the expenditure incurred in excess of the grant voted for the year 1939-40. Sir, the explanation of this small excess, which is less than 1 per cent., as I said on the day on which I placed this matter before the House last week, is included in the paper which is now in the hands of honourable members. I do not think, Sir, it is necessary for me to make any speech in support of the proposal which I am making except to say this that the matter has been considered by the Public Accounts Committee and I am making this recommendation as suggested by the Committee itself.

The motion that an excess grant of Rs. 1,862 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure in excess of the voted grant in the year 1939-40 under the major head "11—Registration", was then put and agreed to.

Supplementary Demands.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now we have got just an hour and a quarter and if there is any desire to discuss the Supplementary Demands—at least the general discussion—the House may.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you, Sir.

Sir, in connection with the general discussion of the Budget we had placed before the Government our comments regarding the want of any plan and in particular regarding the large amounts from year to year spent away and the practice of coming before the House towards the fag-end of a year for large supplementary estimates being voted. The Hon'ble Finance Minister himself in course of his own observations pointed out to this Assembly and assured us that he at any rate will make an attempt to see that this may not be repeated. I had as a matter of fact difficulty to find out whether this is at all regular because both in the Government of India Act and in the rules made thereunder provision is made for supplementary estimates only for an emergent and unforeseen expenditure.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I am sorry to interrupt you. I am afraid the order, as it has been couched, is such as is amenable to the interpretation that the Supplementary Demand discussion will be finished to-day and voted. Is that the intention of the Government?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: That is not the intention, Sir. What happened was that Dr. Sanyal himself suggested that in view of the fact that the discussion on the Public Accounts Committee Report and on the demands for excess expenditure would not take more than a few minutes, as has been the case, the House might have an opportunity of starting the general discussion on the supplementary estimate to-day and the actual voting on grants, if necessary, might be continued till to-morrow. To that we had no objection.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I find is that the Government department —not our department—has just misunderstood the whole thing. The Secretariat Department has sent the order thus: That the Governor has been pleased to direct that the following business shall be taken up in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on the 25th February, 1942, after the disposal of the business already fixed for the day, instead of on the 26th February, 1942:—

"Discussion and voting of Supplementary Demands."

In other words "instead of" means that it cannot be taken up to-morrow.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That may be regularised later on.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: We have no objection.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then the order stands modified to this extent that we shall take up discussion to-day and continue till to-morrow.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you very much.

Sir, we want to draw attention in particular to this year's supplementary estimates which cover a very large amount of Rs. 2 crores, 39 lakhs out of which the amount of Rs. 2 crores, 37 lakhs come under "Voted" grant and only Rs. 2,75,000 under "Charged" heads. Here, Sir, I want to submit that we who had been members of the Public Accounts Committee for the last few years had been extremely careful to see that even if "Voted" grants are allowed to be placed in Supplementary Estimates, there should be absolutely no attempt on the part of Government to increase Charged expenditure and so far as

Charged grants are concerned the House should have an opportunity of examining in fuller detail when the Budget proposals are placed in the beginning of the year. In the nature of things, we presume, that this year being rather an abnormal year, it has not been possible for Government to come forward with proposals earlier. While conceding to that extent, I submit that it should be possible for Government to come up to the Assembly earlier in the course of the year, if additional provisions are necessary, probably during the Autumn Session, before the final stages are actually finished. Some of the items mentioned in the Supplementary Estimates appear to have resulted from decisions of Government arrived at long before the present stage. The decisions, for example, of providing additional amounts as dearness allowance to the Police, provision for additional jails, provision for additional clothing and dietary allowance for prisoners,—these were items which were decided upon long ago. I do not see, Sir, any reason why Government should not be in a position to take the House into confidence as early as decisions are made for additional commitments or additional expenditure.

I submit that the present Finance Minister should kindly look into the question and even if it is necessary to have further estimates provided for, he would at least give an earlier opportunity to the House to examine his suggestions. It would be noticed that the expenses involved under certain heads are rather abnormally high. We will take the specific cases up as and when discussions on particular votes are taken up. It will be noticed, however, that there are certain items which may not be taken up during the voting of grants and for which, I believe, the only opportunity that we may take to submit our observations is during the general discussion. There are two such items in the present estimate, namely, the item under "Interest and Debt and other Obligations" and the item under "Commutation of Pension and Extraordinary Charges." Under "Interest and Debt and other Obligations" we have provided Rs. 48,000 of additional Charged expenditure. Mr. Suhrawardy as well as my friend Mr. Gladding of the European Party have expressed grave doubts about the wisdom of Government in having larger expenditure involved as a result of their policy of utilising the machinery of the issue of Treasury Bills for recouping their running day-to-day expenses. The provision for Treasury Bills was mainly to meet temporary deficits in the Ways and Means balances or temporary drawbacks in these reserves. On the contrary, we find that instead of utilising the Treasury Bills for such a purpose last year, the Treasury Bills have been allowed to run on for a pretty long time virtually taking the place of loans which were otherwise avoided. We find that this large expenditure or large increase under "Interests and Debt and other Obligations" has been mainly due to this process of permitting the Treasury Bills issue to be prolonged beyond what was originally intended.

So far as the commutation of pension goes, I do not have much grievance against that. In fact, it would relieve the future generation although for the present it means an additional burden on the revenues. Sir, we propose to go into the details of other demands later on, but I would like to draw attention to one or two items in this connection which generally cover a larger number of demands than one, that is to say, with regard to the personnel under various heads. We have found large amount provided for the pay of officers under "Other Taxes and Duties"—officers who obviously had to be appointed in connection with the Bengal Finance Sales Tax Act and we have also found large expenses provided under "Extraordinary Charges for Officers and other Equipments". We find that in the selection of these officers there is hardly any plan. Comments have been made from different sections on different grounds. My friends of the Muslim League have felt their doubts as to whether the communal ratio in the services has been maintained in appointing such officers. I on this side from the Congress, have my doubts as to whether proper men—efficient and meritorious—for the particular office or offices which have been filled up, have been taken in or not. We have found from the reply of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Finance yesterday how in the selection of Commercial Tax Officers the minimum qualification laid down had to be abandoned in certain cases. I do not know whether there was any minimum qualification laid down for A. R. P. officers and officers under Civil Defence Services. We have our grave doubts about the efficiency of such officers. I am particularly drawing attention of the Civil Defence Minister, where, we are informed, retired Government officers, who were actually thrown out of service because of their senility and inefficiency, have been put in charge of heavy duties and some of them cannot be found in their posts when one wants to meet and discuss things. I am, in particular, taking the case of one officer, Mr. J. K. Biswas who has not been found in his place for several days at a time——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I told you repeatedly that it is not desirable to mention names in the House. You can certainly refer to the posts. I don't mind that, but surely it is not desirable to mention names.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have no personal animus against that officer.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: He is neither a Hindu nor a Muslim.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: And that is all the more reason why we should not entertain any feeling. I am only drawing attention

to the difficulty in carrying through the programme of work a part of which has been entrusted to me, in such circumstances. I have been informed that there is one office which is co-ordinating the appointments under various Defence Services. We were told in a Conference of University men and Government representatives that appointments would be found for unemployed teachers to the extent of nearly 1,500 in various Defence Services. When we actually went and sought information about the nature of such services and their number, we could not discover more than 100 and yet the teachers are being asked to go and the schools are being asked to amalgamate and run as Central schools after a certain amount of dislocation of work. We have found that there are persons appointed who do not seem to possess any qualification whatever. Just because they have been prodigal sons of good or bad families, who have not succeeded in European education, and because they manage to get reputed wives, some have got appointments. Similarly we find that inefficient men, old decrepit and retired officers, who cannot put in more than two hours' work at a time, have been selected. All these matters have got to be seriously examined if the Hon'ble Minister in charge really want efficient service. (Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am not in charge.) The Hon'ble Minister says that he is not in charge, but he has a responsibility at any rate to see that the population of Bengal are properly defended in Civil Defence activities, and, if possible, he should exercise his influence to improve the personnel. Their selection, their training and their equipment require careful examination. Sir, I have hardly anything more to add.

Before I resume my seat, I would only say one word about the jute policy. This has engaged the attention even during the general discussion of the coming year's Budget. We find that under "Grant No. 23—Agriculture," there is a large additional amount provided for, a lump provision of Rs. 20 lakhs; the original sum was found inadequate and the checking and licensing work required a very large amount of additional expenditure. I submit that this matter of jute policy (restriction being released or weakened) has got to be very carefully considered. With these observations, I expect that the Hon'ble Minister in charge will see that at least some of these grants may be permitted to be reduced by a token cut motion so that there may be the necessary appreciation and desire of the House reflected thereon.

Adjournment Motion: Dr. Suresh Banerjee's Internment.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chief Minister, I understand, wants to make a statement.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I ask your leave to make a statement regarding the adjournment motion which is pending and which is due to be taken up at 10 o'clock. I want to make this statement regarding the Government policy in connection with labour under War Emergency conditions and also what we propose to do regarding this particular case of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee.

The question of taking necessary steps to enable Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, a member of this House to attend the present session of the Assembly has been engaging our serious consideration from the very first day of the session. The delay in coming to any decision has been due to certain doubts felt regarding the powers of the Provincial Government to intervene in labour disputes and to enforce their decision in respect thereof. I am glad to be able to inform the House that on an examination of the question I am satisfied that the Provincial Government have sufficient powers to deal with the situation.

I now come to a declaration of our policy. It is Government's policy not to permit strikes in industries essential for war production. The corollary of this is that Government are prepared, and this may be taken as a solemn declaration of their policy, to ensure a fair deal to labour in war time conditions.

In order to ensure this they are satisfied that they have adequate powers under the Emergency Legislation by resort to which they can, if necessary, compel employers to accept their decisions on such matters as rates of wages or allowances, conditions of service, etc. They are confident that resort to compulsion of this kind will ordinarily be unnecessary, but it is as well that it should be publicly known that these powers exist and that Government are prepared, if circumstances so require, to employ them.

In view of this decision Government propose to bring Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee down to Calcutta as soon as possible to enable Government to ascertain his present views. So far as I am aware, Dr. Banerjee has always been prepared to co-operate with us in bringing about a peaceful solution of labour disputes. Government will withdraw the order of internment passed on Dr. Banerjee when Government are satisfied after a personal discussion with him that there was no likelihood of his activities in Calcutta being prejudicial to public order during the present emergent situation, in accordance with the policy just outlined. In view of this position I would ask Dr. Sanyal not to press his adjournment motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir: I am grateful for the enunciation of Government policy regarding legitimate Trade Union activities and regarding the relationship between labour and employers in general. While appreciating that policy, Sir, I submit

that we on this side do not accept the suggestion contained in the statement that Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, a member of this House has ever been guilty of the position outlined, namely of fomenting or encouraging strikes for nothing. We know that Dr. Banerjee was engaged in very peaceful and legitimate trade union activities, and yet we appreciate the genuine approach that the present Ministry is seeking to make to questions of this character and during the present emergency we propose to strengthen the hands of Government in maintaining order and peace internally as far as practicable. (Hear, hear.) Sir, with that genuine desire in our heart and appreciating the efforts that have been made by the Ministry, I would only be too glad not to move my motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: May I express my grateful thanks to Dr. Sanyal for the co-operation I have received from him?

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any desire to continue the general discussion of the Budget to-day?

(No desire was shown from any part of the House to continue the discussion.)

Adjournment.

Accordingly the House was adjourned at 9-10 a.m. till 8-30 a.m. on Thursday, the 26th February, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 26th February, 1942, at 8-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 7 Hon'ble Ministers and 207 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Transfer of the District Magistrate of Jessore.

***88. Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that the last District Magistrate of Jessore has been transferred from Jessore to Midnapore?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the period for which he was stationed there; and

(*ii*) the reason of such a transfer?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME and PUBLICITY DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) From 17th October, 1940, to 24th January, 1942.

(*ii*) Mr. Khan was transferred to Midnapore in the chain of arrangements necessitated by the appointment of Mr. Hughes as Labour Commissioner.

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Will the Hon'ble the Home Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there was an order of transfer of Mr. Khan to Mymensingh before his transfer to Midnapore?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: He was not transferred to Mymensingh. The Muhammadans of Midnapore wanted a Muslim officer and he was transferred there.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is it or is it not a fact that Mr. Khan was informed that he would be transferred to Mymensingh?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is it or is it not a fact that Mr. Hughes was the District Magistrate of Mymensingh before he became the Labour Commissioner?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, that is so.

Newspapers in Jessore district.

*89. **Mr. SERAJUL ISLAM:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Publicity Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of newspapers at present existing in the district of Jessore;

(*b*) the number of them that are published in—

(*i*) Bengali,

(*ii*) English, and

(*iii*) any other languages;

(*c*) the number of them that are—

(*i*) Dailies,

(*ii*) Weeklies, and

(*iii*) Monthlies;

(*d*) the names of the papers referred to in (*c*) with names of their respective editor; and

(*e*) which of these newspapers referred to in (*c*) are authorised by courts to publish notices of auction sale?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Four.

(*b*) (*i*) Four.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Nil.

(*c*) (*i*) and (*iii*) Nil.

(*ii*) Four.

(*d*) (1) *Jashohar Patrika*—Editor: Babu Ananda Mohan Choudhury.

(2) *Jessore Gazette*—Editor: Maulvi Wahed Ali Ansari.

(3) *Ananda Patrika*—Editor: Babu Satyendra Nath Chakravarty.

(4) *Pallibarta*—Editor: Babu Charu Chandra Roy.

(*e*) All the four newspapers are authorised by courts to publish notices of auction sale.

Collection of agricultural loan in Burichang and Debidwar police-stations.

*90. **Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that people of the Burichang and Debidwar police-stations, Tippera, have suffered owing to the floods caused by the Gumti embankment breaches; and

(*ii*) that flood-affected people have been ordered to repay the agricultural loans now?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the local officers were consulted before the issue of the order?

(*d*) Do the Government contemplate having the order of the repayment withdrawn for the present?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE, JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No. The *kist* has been extended up to October, 1942. But as there has been a good *aman* crop after the flood some tenants are making advance payment on voluntary basis.

(*b*) to (*d*) Do not arise.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was the first *kist* given?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Prior to October, 1942.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that *aman* crop has grown on only a portion of the flood-affected area?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I have no information.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the *aman* crop will carry the people for only two or three months?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I cannot say that off-hand.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to see that in those areas where *aman* crop has not grown well, as the honourable member has said, such cases are taken into consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am prepared to see to that.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Circle Officers and Subdivisional Officers have been asked to collect agricultural loans now?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I have no information.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter? As a matter of fact the Hon'ble Minister has said, "some tenants are making advance payment on voluntary basis". But my definite opinion is that they are being made to pay and they are not paying on a voluntary basis.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I will look into the matter.

Programme regarding the Secondary Education Bill.

***91. Mr. ABDULLA AL-MAHMOOD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the programme of the Government regarding the Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1940; and

(*ii*) whether the Bill will be taken up, considered and passed during this session?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION, COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): A new Bill is being prepared, which it is hoped to introduce and pass during the present session.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for not proceeding with the old Secondary Education Bill?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Because that Bill was revised considerably in a Joint Conference.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when that decision was taken and who were the members of that Joint Conference?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was decided in that Joint Conference that the Bill shall not be revised?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister deny that a decision was taken in the Conference to that effect?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I can neither affirm nor deny.

YOUSUF MIRZA: On a point of order, Sir. Is it permissible that members of the Opposition should cross-examine the Hon'ble Minister in this way?

(Cries of "Can't you stand supplementary questions", etc., from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether an assurance was given that during this session the Secondary Education Bill will not only be introduced but will be passed whatever time may be necessary for that purpose?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I am constrained to say that the Hon'ble Minister is not telling the truth.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Shahabuddin, I am sorry to say that this is not fair.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Joint Conference was consulted before Government decided to withdraw the Bill?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: When was that I do not know.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state who is the Minister in the Cabinet who knows anything about Secondary Education?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, I have not got any suitable reply to my question yet.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That Bill has not yet been withdrawn.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Is it not a fact that when that Bill came up before this House Government chose not to proceed with it?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. The mere statement that Government does not want to proceed with a Bill does not necessarily mean that the Executive Government had abandoned that Bill, until, of course, a new Bill comes up before the House. I am of opinion that, simply because the old Bill has not yet been taken up, it does not necessarily follow that Government is not considering the old Bill at all.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: May we know whether Government has any intention to proceed with the old Bill?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much of the new Bill has been prepared or has been proceeded with?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I submit that we are entitled to know how far he has proceeded with the new Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, you were a Minister yourself and I ask you to answer whether it is a relevant question to ask as to how far the Hon'ble Minister has proceeded so far.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state within what approximate period of time the Bill is expected to be drafted?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The draft is already in my hand. I have only to have the approval of the Government as a whole before introduction.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: May we know when Government expect to introduce the new Bill?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: As early as possible and during the present session.

Control of flood in certain districts of West Bengal.

*92. **Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether there has been during the months of September and October, 1941, floods in the districts of Burdwan, Hooghly, Howrah, Midnapore and Bankura?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the immediate cause of this flood in the respective districts; and

(*ii*) what steps, if any, the Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): The honourable member is referred to the reply given to the starred question No. 22 on the 18th February, 1942.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Clerks under Forest and Excise Department.

48. **Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present number of clerks in the various offices of the Excise Department of this Province;

(*b*) the number of—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus, and

(3) Scheduled Castes amongst them; and

(*c*) the number of clerks appointed in the Department since 1st April, 1938, from—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus, and

(3) Scheduled Castes?

MINISTER in charge of the FOREST and EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath Barman): The clerical establishment in the District and the Subdivisional Excise Offices forms part of the Collectorate establishment. A statement furnishing the required information in respect of the clerical establishment in the offices of the Commissioner of Excise, Bengal (including Central Detective Department), and the Collector of Excise, Calcutta, is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to unstarred question No. 48.

	Excise Commissioner's Office including C. D. D.	Calcutta Excise Office.
(*i*) Present number of clerks in ..	28	18
(*ii*) The number of—		
(1) Muslims	12	8
(2) Caste Hindus	16	8
(3) Scheduled Castes amongst them.	..	2
(*iii*) The number of clerks appointed since 1st April, 1938, from—		
(1) Muslims	3	3
(2) Caste Hindus	1	2
(3) Scheduled Castes ..	..	..

Committee for the appointment of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars.

49. Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Advisory Committee for the appointment of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars in the district of Tippera has been reconstituted; and

(*ii*) whether any new member has been substituted for old ones?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The general orders providing for the constitution of such Committees have been revised since the old Committee was constituted and the revised orders provide for a somewhat different constitution.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state the names of the new members that have been substituted for the old ones?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I think these have been published in the Gazette already?

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: No, these have not been published.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Then I want notice.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister please lay on the table the revised orders?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, I will consider that.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if according to Government notification all the Muslim M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. of that district should be on the committee?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: No, according to the revised rules, it is no longer necessary to include all the M.L.As. and M.L.Cs.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if the Muslim M.L.As. of the League Party have been omitted from that committee?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: No.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of privilege, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister appears not to know anything about the contents of the file which deals with the question. The usual thing for Ministers is to bring the relevant files along with them into which they can look for the purpose of answering supplementary questions so that they may

be able to enlighten the House regarding these matters. The Hon'ble Minister does not know anything about these questions, nor does he bring in the files.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, if you have got a supplementary question, you may put it. It is not a question of privilege as to how the Ministers answer questions. I know answers have been given in this House without looking into the file.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I might here submit that Mr. Suhrawardy has expressed a genuine grievance. We have been for the last few days watching that the Hon'ble Ministers do not come prepared to reply all questions put to them and we cannot possibly place this submission unless in a general character. It has been observed also that either in your department or in the administrative departments considerable delay is being made in dealing with the question. I had tabled two very important short-notice questions on the 16th and those short-notice questions relate to the present arrangements for civil defence and how far it will be possible for Government to take the co-operation of the Congress, the Muslim League and other voluntary organisations. We have not been favoured with a reply yet although we have been repeatedly asking the Hon'ble Minister concerned as to what the position is.

Mr. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, you know that I am absolutely helpless to improve the manner in which Hon'ble Ministers answer questions. That is absolutely beyond my power and it is very difficult for me to say as to how the Ministers will or will not answer. In fact, that is a matter which the House has got other methods to deal with.

As the question of delay has been raised, I may say that there has been absolutely no delay on the part of this department, and if Dr. Sanyal sees the agonies of our department in the absence of Assistant Secretaries still, he will realise the difficulties. I am not speaking of myself because the Speaker seems to be the bottle-neck of the whole system and whatever may be the file, it must go to him and even if there be a cartload of files, he has to send them the same day.

The whole position is that there were 238 questions pending from the July-August session.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I find one of the questions relating to an interview with me in jail was held up for two long sessions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Out of the 238 questions, a very large number were not answered in the last December session and even in this session we

have so far got replies of only 140 questions. Therefore, the whole position is that right from July last, we have been able to get answers of only 140 out of 238 questions. So far as the present session is concerned, we have sent 151 questions to the departments till the 2nd February last and we have got replies of only 32. So, Dr. Sanyal please do not carry the impression that there might be any contingent delay in this department. I am not prepared to accept that position.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, while appreciating the remarks about your department, I have to draw your attention to the short-notice questions that I have referred to. I find that from your department the questions were sent to the administrative department on the 19th February although the questions were handed in on the 16th February and they were marked "Immediate." If short-notice questions took three days to pass out of your department, I do not know what to say about this. When I made enquiries of the administrative department, they said that these had not reached their hands yet.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will be able to answer this immediately. I am getting the files.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, regarding the first portion of your observation, with great respect may I say that if Hon'ble Ministers reply questions by saying "I do not know", "I do not remember" or "I cannot say", surely the Chair is entitled to ask them to look into the files and answer the questions properly as they should be answered and it becomes a privilege question if they do not. Sir, I do submit that the Chair is not so helpless as to be unable to ask Hon'ble Ministers to reply in a proper manner.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been asking this for the last four years!

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I think the previous Ministers did read their files and answer questions properly. Sir, if you look up the records, you will find that proper answers were given and it was never stated "I do not know" or "I cannot say". None of them were ever so helpless as the present Ministers are.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I have said it is not for me to say how the questions are to be answered. All I am concerned with is to see whether they are answered expeditiously. The method and manner in which a question is answered—whether it is a full answer or an intelligent answer or a complete answer or an unequivocal answer or an answer to the satisfaction of the House—are matters entirely for the House to decide.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Or no answer!

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry I do not want to enter into arguments. I do say that so long as there is some answer—even if it is tantamount to no answer—I am helpless to do anything. It is for the members to find out the remedy.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: On a point of order, Sir. Is Mr. Suhrawardy in order in claiming the monopoly of answering questions in the session?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is or it is not a fact that in accordance with the orders of the old Government all advisory committees for the appointment of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars were to include all M.L.As. and M.L.Cs within their jurisdiction irrespective of parties?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: According to the old rules or new rules?

Mr. SPEAKER: Old rules.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: According to the old rules "Yes", but according to the revised rules "No" It is in the discretion of the Government to select as many as they would think fit.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state the reason for this change?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Because change is the order of the day.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was this change introduced.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state whether this change has taken place with the object of keeping Muslim M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. away from these committees?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: No. Some of the worst offenders of the Muslim League are still in the committees.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he means by the expression "worst offenders"?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Have the worst traitors, worst betrayers of the Muslim League been excluded from the committees?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: May I point out that we, the members on this side of the House, feel that what the Hon'ble Minister has said is absolutely correct, namely, those who have done great injury to the Muslim League have been included in those committees?

Representation of Scheduled Castes in Noakhali District Board.

50. Mr. JAGAT CHANDRA MONDAL: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department aware that there is no representative of the Scheduled Castes in the Noakhali District Board?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of nominating a member from the Scheduled Castes in the said District Board in the near future?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (*a*) Babu Kamala Kanta Majumdar, B.L., who is an appointed member of the Noakhali District Board, is a representative of the Scheduled Castes.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Re-excavation of Dhurang khal in Fatickchari, Chittagong.

51. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) With reference to the reply given to unstarred question No. 62 on the 19th August, 1941, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether tenders for the re-excavation work of the Dhurang *khal* in police-station Fatickchari, district Chittagong, have since been invited by the Irrigation Department; and

(*ii*) whether acquisition of necessary lands and other preliminary works have been completed?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) (*i*) Tenders were called for and the selected contractor has already started the work.

(*ii*) The major portion of the work will be done on the *khal* where no acquisition is necessary. A small piece of land will have to be acquired in the short length of diversion. Steps are being taken for acquiring it.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Re-excavation of the "Oud" khal in Tippera.

52. Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state whether the Government have received any representation for the re-excavation of the "Oud" *khal* in the district of Tippera?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The execution of a scheme for the re-excavation of the *khal* has been postponed for the time being, as it is not as urgent as it is expensive.

Short-notice question.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I put a short-notice question. May I know if I have got consent of the Hon'ble Minister?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not got it yet; I shall look into it.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion yesterday. May I know what has happened to it?

Mr. SPEAKER: All I want to say is that we are working under emergency circumstances. Formerly our office used to remain open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Now we have to sit from 8 o'clock in the morning till 12-30 or 1 o'clock. Your motion was filed after 12-30 p.m. We have sent it to the administrative department and other steps will have to be taken. So it will not be possible to take it up to-day. I hope we will take it up to-morrow.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If the life of a person is at stake, we hope the administrative department——

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is such a stake, it is only fair that the speaker should be immediately informed, so that necessary steps can be taken. If you leave it to the normal routine of the office, you will have to bear the consequences. In these matters, I think, it is always my duty to give utmost possible help to the Opposition and I am quite prepared to give it. My difficulty is this that in fact I have to deal with quite a large number—rather I should say, literally, a cartload of files.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: When I referred to that it was not a reflection on yourself. I trusted that the administrative department would consider it of importance and look into the matter and not come up to-morrow by saying that they had no information.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

Mr. SPEAKER: We will now proceed with the Supplementary Budget Estimate.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Before we proceed with the Supplementary Budget Estimate may we know from you, Sir, how you propose to conduct the discussion to-day? We have about 8 important demands before us. You may either split the time available for each demand or you may allow us to take up——

Mr. SPEAKER: What I am proposing is this: it would be best if first of all I ask the Hon'ble Ministers to move the demands, and thereafter take such item as the Opposition consider important, and then put the whole thing to vote.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How will the Hon'ble Ministers reply to specific criticisms?

Mr. SPEAKER: Immediately after the motion is finished. He will reply immediately after a particular motion is moved.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That will take long time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Anyway, I propose to apply the guillotine at 11-30 a.m.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I propose half past twelve.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will try to make it near about half past twelve.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, it would be convenient for us in the Opposition, if each demand is taken separately and you permit us to take up such of the demands which are considered to be more important, and we feel that "Extraordinary Charges" dealing with the additional expenditure on account of A.R.P. and Civil Defence comes up as the most important We may take up that one first.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any objection in taking up "Extraordinary charges" first?

(No objection.)

63—Extraordinary Charges in India.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 70,23,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" during the current year.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 70,23,000 under the head "Extraordinary Charges" be reduced by Rs. 100 The object of my motion is to raise a discussion about the selection, training and remuneration of various grades of personnel of the A.R.P. Services.

Sir, I hardly require a long speech in explanation of my motion which is practically self-explanatory. We have, on the floor of the House on previous occasions during the present session, found how almost every section of the House felt that the present arrangements for A.R.P and Civil Defence are hopelessly lagging behind what we consider to be proper and adequate. It has been felt that the lack in this connection is largely due to the personnel selected, to the want of training of such personnel and to the inadequate supply of materials to equip that personnel. I want to move my motion to draw particular attention to all these three directions.

With regard to the selection of personnel, we do not know what principle has been followed, but we find from actual experience in the various wards of Calcutta that persons who do not appear to be in any way in touch with public opinion have been somehow or other found fit to hold important A.R.P. posts. The Controller of A.R.P., the Deputy Controllers of A.R.P. and also the various chains of officers under them are either Government servants or Government henchmen—men who have never shown their ability to command any organisation of public character. We have also discovered that some of these officers are old and retired Government servants who have been found incompetent in some of their work, and possibly their selection was made not so much with a view to ensure efficiency but to see that any person who might not sing hallelujah to the present or the past Government might be kept excluded.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: When were the selections made?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is for the Hon'ble Minister to reply.

We have also noticed that some individuals who were not considered to be as docile as others and who claimed that certain materials should be supplied to some of their men and certain classes of training should be given have been summarily asked to get out of the A.R.P. and without even asking them or without even having the courtesy to consult them about it, they have been replaced by other men. This state of affairs is extremely unsatisfactory.

In the A.R.P. services, large amounts have been spent and it is our very considered opinion that not only arrangements are not being made for the protection that we need but also the money that is being spent is literally wasted. There is no check on that expenditure and the sums that are allotted for different kinds of work are simply squandered. I have heard very many kinds of complaints and it is very difficult for me, as you have ruled that it is not permissible for any member to refer to individual cases, to bring to the notice of this House these charges, but I want to indicate generally the nature of these complaints. One charge is that these men are definitely anti-national and they are doing practically the work of the Criminal Investigation Department and Special Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department. They are not doing anything in the nature of helping the people to organise in the matter of Civil Defence, and one of these officers has been openly twitting one of the responsible Ministers of Government and in fact the Civil Defence Minister himself, in his office, because the Minister happened to run up to Trichinopoly to see his esteemed leader.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: What is that? I do not know anything about it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It was——

Mr. SPEAKER: May I ask you, Dr. Sanyal, to refrain from mentioning the name of any one?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I did not like to, but I had to mention it because the Minister——

Mr. SPEAKER: What remedy has that gentleman got against what you say even if he wants to give an explanation? Please remember that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I refrained from mentioning the name——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not the quest

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But when the Hon'ble Minister wanted to know I had to say it.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you persist like that, I shall be compelled to take all necessary steps to see that you don't mention names. It is most unfair to mention any name except in the case of a substantive motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit to your ruling, Sir, but I also venture to submit that it is a recognised parliamentary principle that although no matter of a personal character impugning the honesty or otherwise of an officer should be called in question, the public activity of any officer of the State, however high he may be, can be brought up. If that is not permitted, then the Parliament is not worth the name. I am only talking of the public activity of an officer.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to see that you don't mention any name. I am sorry, Dr. Sanyal, you do not realise the point. Please consider for yourself. Here is a man who, you allege, has said something in the presence of A, B, C, D. What remedy has he got against that?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The department will enquire into it.

Mr. SPEAKER: But you have no right to mention his name here. If you want, you may write to the department and say "this is what I am going to say in the open House".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why should I give notice?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: When Dr. Sanyal said that a certain officer had been openly twitting the Minister concerned, I have every right to ask whether it was a fact because nobody has yet come to me and twitted me openly or otherwise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: This is a fact borne out by a very estimable member whose name will carry weight. He has heard it. In his presence, the particular officer concerned spoke out when there were three or more other officers and members of the A.R.P. service present in the office.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Did he twit me?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: In my presence?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not in your presence.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That is not twitting.

Mr. SPEAKER: And yet you say all that. With all your knowledge of parliamentary conventions, do you want me to accept that the casual talk of one member——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In his office.

Mr. SPEAKER:——even in his office or his home is going to be the subject-matter of parliamentary censure.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We have found a number of ladies selected in the A.R.P. services to do what work we do not know. There is an office known as the Public Relations Committee, of which a particular gentleman happens to be the Secretary. That Public Relations Committee has appointed or is going to appoint 3 ladies.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure that the Public Relations Committee has nothing to do with the demand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Some money is allotted from the Budget for the Committee to function.

There is one Christian lady appointed with no qualification whatever, not even a graduate, on Rs. 150 a month. A Muslim lady has counter-balanced this on a salary of about Rs. 125 per mensem with no qualification again. But a Hindu has been proposed to be appointed who is an M.A., B.T. She is being offered less than Rs. 100; but none of these yet knows what her duties are.

Mr. SPEAKER: You seem to keep much information!

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I do not think that the honourable member's information is correct.

Mr. SPEAKER: He wants to build up parliamentary tradition on information of that character.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have got with me a letter addressed by the Secretary of the Marwari Relief Society to the Deputy Commissioner of Police. He complained that on the 11th of February, 1942, a civic guard called at his place, who gave his name as No. 309—Yusuf, and demanded some money from him. (This letter still remains unreplied.) The civic guard had threatened that if the money was not given as "Bakshis" the gentleman would be hauled up on a charge of not taking sufficient precaution to cover his lights. This is not one. This is a specific written complaint, a copy of which has been sent to me, not yet attended to. Similar things are within the knowledge of many citizens of Calcutta. These men have no fault on their side either because they have been selected from practically the scum of the society. In the Ballygunge area in which I live, there has been an attempt to improve the personnel, but the former Chief Warden of the place has himself told me that he could not improve the work because the selection has been hopeless and because he could not get the right type of men.

In the civic guard service, men are offered six annas per day for the duty they do as remuneration and the A.R.P. service offers Rs. 30 a month for a certain limited number of young men who would be prepared to work whole-time. The superior officers of the A.R.P. service are given handsome fat salaries, not only salaries, but some of them who are receiving pensions are also given various allowances in addition to their salaries. They have got house allowance, motor car allowance, garage allowance and so on and so forth. We have heard of persons who had been earning only Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 a month in certain employments being offered jobs on Rs. 200 and more and they have been taken over. This is the manner in which money is being squandered. Moreover, Sir, I have not to go any further than this

House itself to point out the inadequacy of the materials and equipment supplied for A.R.P. work. I am informed on good authority that in the Assembly Building itself elaborate preparations have been made—the personnel has been selected from the Assembly staff itself, and yet Government have not as yet provided adequate materials either for fighting fire or for other A.R.P. services, including the First Aid duties. I do not know who is responsible for this state of affairs. I submit we surely need immediate action and no throwing of blame on each other in a matter of this kind.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am so glad to hear that from you, Dr. Sanyal! (Laughter.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The personnel can be improved only if active co-operation of non-official organisations as organisations is accepted. I do not know what stands in the way of the Hon'ble Minister in charge accepting this offer. The Congress has been for the last few weeks knocking at his door demanding some place for them in the A.R.P. service, and I myself went to his place and our organisation was placed at his disposal as an organisation.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: What has it been able to do so far?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Kumar should not get nervous when charges are made against the present Government. I do not want his support, I do not expect his support. But I expect him to keep quiet.

When I bring this charge home, I submit that the Hon'ble Minister and his party would take it, for whatever they are capable of taking, as an attempt to improve the service and not as an attempt only to criticise their present activities. We demanded that the Congress, the Muslim League, the Hindu Mahasabha, the Ramkrishna Mission and other non-official organisations which are known to be of service to the people, organisations to which people are apt to look up to during any emergency, should be permitted to take charge of certain kinds of work in connection with the A.R.P. and I have also shown the way in which this can be done. If the Hon'ble Minister finds it difficult to absorb these men otherwise than as individuals coming under the overlapping organisation of the A.R.P. under the Police Chief of Calcutta, I submit to him that they may be given separate duties. The A.R.P. cannot possibly and has not possibly taken up all kinds of work. Give us some kind of work where the A.R.P. has not yet spread its organisation. I have pointed out that no attempt has been made to approach personally the poor, illiterate people of Calcutta living in *bustees* for any propaganda amongst them as to how they should conduct themselves

in case of air raid. We are prepared to take up that work which no organisation has yet taken up. The Hon'ble Minister has taken a very long time to consider that position, because probably his great master has not yet conceded to him such functions which might, according to his master's brilliant understanding, develop into Fifth Columnist activities later on. Sir, the bogey of Fifth Columnist is standing in the way of making our own arrangements for protecting our homes, our children and ladies, and our lives and properties. This should not be permitted to go on any longer. Even if the officials stand in the way, we shall be organising in our own way to protect ourselves. We shall then see how the Government prevent us from carrying out our intentions. Yesterday the President of the Congress held an important conference in which we have come to the decision that whatever may befall on us we are going to take charge of the Civil Defence of Calcutta. Every ward has been placed in charge of one responsible man, and we are shortly going to organise ourselves a powerful volunteer organisation in the city. We will be prepared even to court arrest if the Government do not permit an organisation of that character to take charge of life and property and security of the city.

With these observations, Sir, I move my motion, and I hope it will be accepted by the House as it is.

Mr. I. D. JALAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 70,23,000 under the head "Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. Sir, I move this motion with a view to raising a discussion about the inefficiency and insufficiency of A.R.P. arrangements.

Sir, my predecessor has just now stated in this House that he is not quite satisfied with the A.R.P. arrangements that have been made. It is quite obvious, I think, to the Hon'ble Minister himself that when the real crisis will develop it is most likely that in spite of the huge expenses that we have incurred so far, the whole arrangement will fail. The real cause for such failure will be want of enthusiasm and zeal on the part of the people of the country. The Hon'ble Minister enjoys the privileged position of being a popular Minister and has got some touch with the people. He has got to carry on a very intensive propaganda in order to instil into the people the necessary enthusiasm which is required for the proper protection of the lives of the people of this province. We have been in the habit of seing post-mortem examination by the British Government whenever a failure takes place. Let us not follow that example: let us show the path that we are really an effective democracy and not an effete one. The way in which canvassing is done for the purpose of procuring votes in order to get elected to the Legislature should be adopted in this case as well in

canvassing amongst the people of the province in order to have their full co-operation without which it is bound to fail. What is happening at present at an enormous cost? The result which is coming out is not commensurate with the cost which we are incurring in this matter. Big I.C.S. men have been placed in charge of A.R.P. activities. Take, for instance, one I.C.S. man has been asked to undertake lecturing tours. Sir, these lecturing tours can be done by lesser officials, because what is required is to tell the people as to what they have got to do during air-raids. What is required is that there must be a strong organisation behind the Minister in order to achieve the object which is before us. I understand there is no co-ordination between the different departments of the A.R.P. service. I also understand that so far as fire-fighting services are concerned, there are practically no volunteers available to make it worth the name to protect us from the incendiary bombs whenever a fire will occur. Then we have heard inside this very House from the Hon'ble Speaker that there is no sufficient A.R.P. arrangements in this House. I do not understand why this Government has called this Assembly without first having made sufficient A.R.P. arrangement for this House. I have come to know that even no doctors are to be found in order to render medical aid in the event of casualties due to an air-raid——

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: There is Dr. Sanyal for you!

Mr. I. D. JALAN: Not that kind of doctor we want. No doctor is to be found here, Sir, in case any casualty occurs in this House. I would request the honourable members to press for a doctor being provided for by Government for this House. Sir, if Government thinks it necessary to close down schools unless and until proper A.R.P. arrangements are made, I do not understand what reason is there for calling this Assembly school without any proper A.R.P. arrangement having been made beforehand. I should like to know from the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker as to whether he considers that the A.R.P. arrangements so far made are satisfactory for this House, and if they are not, I would ask the Government as to why the Government is taking the responsibility of calling this House. Sir, as a matter of fact if we go to the crux of the whole question we shall be able to solve the problem and if we wish to deal with only outer fringes of it we can never solve the problem.

We found the other day Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru saying—I do not know whether it is correct or not—that when the air raid began in Rangoon most of the wardens disappeared from the scene. I do not want to cast any aspersion on anybody but that is what he said. We also feel that when the time will come no fire extinguisher, no fire-fighting party, nothing of the sort will appear. As a matter of fact

I have great regard for the ability of the Hon'ble Minister, but I do not know whether he has been discharging the responsibility of conducting the routine affairs of the Government. I wish that the Government should seriously consider that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Defence should be freed from all responsibilities with regard to the routine matters of Government and he should devote his whole time and attention to the big problem of defence.

Sir, we cannot go into the fundamentals of this question because the real fundamentals would have arisen if the British Government had taken the proper step. If India would have an independent status it would have infused the people into action. As reported even to-day, men like Sir George Schuster, Mr. Hore Belisha have openly admitted that the Malayalans and the Burmese are not giving their whole in the fight where battle is going on. As a matter of fact, Sir George Schuster said, "That is not the spirit of energy and sacrifice, that is not the spirit of national unity which will see India through the war. They must have the spirit, energy and sacrifice which inspired China and Russia, the spirit which carried on even to the point of the destruction of their cherished homes if that was the only way to defeat the enemy. It is blindness to expect such a spirit unless you had a real National Government leading it." Similarly, Mr. Hore Belisha said—I am quoting these things which have appeared in to-day's newspapers in order to impress upon the British Government the necessity of doing something immediately and without further delay, so that the people of the province and the people of the country will have real enthusiasm which will go to solve the problem in an effective manner. So long as that is not done the Ministry has got to discharge the duty of a popular Government.

Mr. Hore Belisha said, "It is also noteworthy that the Malayalans unlike the Filippinos do not appear seriously to have resisted invasion in their home land. To some extent the same phenomena are noticeable in Burma. There the military operations are hampered by lack of enthusiastic co-operation on the part of the Burmese. It may be too late to take action in Burma to join the local population with us in fighting against the Japanese. In India, however, there is still time."

That is, Sir, a question which the British Government only can solve. But so far as the effects of air raids are concerned—I am speaking of air raids and things which appear as a result of air raids, I have already stated that we cannot check invasion—we cannot create that enthusiasm in the people of this province which can only impel people to make the supreme sacrifice which is demanded in catastrophes of this nature, but so far as the Hon'ble Minister is concerned I say that he has taken the responsibility of Civil Defence of this province. If he is unable to discharge his responsibilities in an efficient manner,

he should take the House into confidence and tell the House as to what are the impediments, whether they are internal impediments or external impediments which stand in the way of achieving the end. If that is so, the right course for the Hon'ble Minister is to advise the people to leave the capital and not to live under false notions of protection when there is no protection. Let not the people be under some delusion that they are going to be protected by this Government when as a matter of fact they are not going to be protected. Let us face facts and let us face realities. If the Hon'ble Minister is able to discharge his duties, let him say so frankly; if he is not able to discharge his duties, let him say frankly that for these reasons he is unable to do so and let the people take their own course. We are in a very curious position; we have not got the entire control of Government in our hands. There are so many safeguards; there are so many difficulties in our way. But let not those difficulties fall on the head of the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Defence. If the defence fails the people will hold him responsible and no amount of shifting his own responsibilities on to the shoulders of others will avail. Therefore, I say with all the responsibility that I can command that the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Defence should take it very seriously and realise that he has taken the greatest responsibility in the supreme hour and let him discharge the responsibility to its fullest extent and we, the representatives of the people of this province, will hold him responsible for anything which happens and which injures our position and life in this province. As I have stated above, if he feels unable to do so, let him say so frankly in this House so that the people may know and decide the line of action. On one side we have been asked by the "Statesman" not to leave Calcutta but to stick to it; on the other side we are told that there is no organisation to protect us. What is the advice then? Are we going to be murdered here? Why should we be bombed in Calcutta if we find that the Government is not fulfilling its responsibility?

With these words, Sir, I move my motion and I hope the Ministry will take proper course in this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the members of the Congress Party who have initiated this discussion for the very frank manner in which they have stated their case. I am quite aware that there is considerable dissatisfaction among the citizens of Calcutta in regard to the arrangements which have been made so far with regard to A.R.P. and Civil Defence measures. Sir, there is a frank recognition also of the fact on the part of the members who have taken part in this debate that the whole of the structure, the whole of the arrangements have been a legacy to us by the last Ministry. It is my honourable friend Sir Nazimuddin

who was responsible for building up the structure which has been handed down to us—call it a top-heavy administration, call it an administration which is squandering away money, and whatever charge you can bring against them, well, it is a legacy which has come down to us, and it does require some time, does require some energy for the purpose of weeding out if there is anything which cannot get the sanction of popular opinion. I know that objections will be raised from that quarter of the House, but the fact does stand out prominently and pre-eminently in the records of the Government to which Sir Nazimuddin cannot legitimately raise any objection, whatever his followers may do, that this is the state of affairs which has been handed down to us.

Sir, there is considerable justification for the structure which has been raised. I agree that A.R.P. arrangements require thorough training, technical skill and whole-time attention on the part of officials. Without that an A.R.P. organisation worth the name cannot be built up. From that point of view the officials—the superior officials—who have been charged with this duty have been discharging their duties to our satisfaction. I agree that some of the appointments which have been made may not meet with approval so far as I am concerned; but the appointments are there and it is difficult for me to get rid of these officers all at once without giving them a chance to prove their worth. That is the position with which I am faced to-day. If I had a free hand at the time these arrangements were initiated, probably I would have started on a different plane and probably I would have tried to fashion this scheme, this organisation and this structure in a different manner altogether. Sir Nazimuddin and the Government then in power had their own ideas. They had possibly brought in officers to certain position which would not have met with my approval if I had the privilege of initiating the scheme. But the scheme is there; it has been working for two years when I came into the shoes of the Minister concerned in the last Ministry and I find that in course of these two months—well, it is not even a month that this new portfolio has been created—it is not possible for me to set my foot on all that I consider not desirable, and it is necessary that I should study the situation before I can do anything effective in the matter of weeding out unnecessary or incapable elements in the service.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In the meantime bombs will fall.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Yes, bombs will fall and that is left to fate. We cannot help it. The Legislature ought to have intervened earlier and brought an end to the state of affairs which is responsible for this. They have not done it and they must now face the necessary consequences.

Well, Sir, the position is this. So far as the other part of the question is concerned, Sir Nazimuddin is probably not responsible. The public has stood out; they have not come forward; the public have not given that association and that co-operation which Sir Nazimuddin expected of them. I am not blaming the public. I am not, for the time being, discussing the justification or otherwise of the attitude taken up by the public, but the fact remains that the public have not come forward and these arrangements have not been so popular as they ought to have been. The officers themselves recognise that the response from the public in the matter of recruitment of personnel has been extremely poor and we are still asking for the necessary amount of support for the purpose of manning these services in an effective and efficient manner.

Now, Sir, I invited and I still invite, openly and wholeheartedly, all organisations to come and join the A.R.P. services and the Casualty services, but, unfortunately, some of these organisations, probably the Congress and the Muslim League, say that they are not going to join these organisations as such. They say "Deal with us as organisations and not as individuals——(Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: What does the Hon'ble Minister mean by saying "join the organisation"?) I am coming to it. You cannot criticise an organisation while you say that you are not going to join it. But if you say "We are going to join it; give us a place of prestige, honour and power" and if we refuse, it is then up to you to say "We offered our services but we were not accepted". That position one can understand. I would certainly welcome these organisations having regard to the power, influence, standing, dignity and prestige they command in this province and in the country. If they had only realised that a new turn would have been given to these movements in Calcutta and outside, I am certain they would not have stood out then. Sir, I am not quarrelling about the ideology,——

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, may I interrupt the Hon'ble Minister and ask him a question? Will he allow private organisations like the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League, the Forward Bloc and other organisations to work with them keeping their organisations intact without merging themselves in the Government organisation and to collaborate with them? Will the Hon'ble Minister permit that?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, I am obliged to the honourable Leader of the Congress for putting this question to me. It is a very serious matter and we must all put our heads together and work in a spirit of perfect co-operation and collaboration. (Laughter

and cries of "Oh! oh! from the Opposition Benches.) I do not know, Sir, what I have done to deserve this derisive laughter. I am only trying to put my viewpoint. I shall certainly welcome any co-operation, any collaboration at this critical moment. Everybody agrees that these are critical times. Everybody desires that something should be done, but whenever it comes to the question of discussing the realities of the situation I find derisive laughter facing me when I am going to develop my point of view.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You are talking with your tongue in the cheek.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: As Dr. Sanyal was away somewhere and has just come in he could not follow what was said. I am not going to criticise Dr. Sanyal. I was only trying to answer Mr. Roy's question, but his followers are raising all sorts of difficulties.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: We cannot help you.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Please do not help where help is not necessary. Now, Sir, Mr. Roy has asked this question as to whether the help of the Congress Party, the Muslim League or the Hindu Mahasabha will be accepted. This will be accepted, most certainly accepted, and I was going to say that in answer to the points raised by Dr. Sanyal. Dr. Sanyal has clarified this issue to a considerable extent when he said that outside these arrangements which are not connected with A.R.P. proper there is considerable room for co-operation and, if necessary, we should call them to assist us and give them a share of the work. I wholeheartedly agree with Dr. Sanyal's offer. That offer was also made by me some days ago in course of the general discussion of the Budget. That offer stands. That offer I made long ago in public meetings addressed by me in Calcutta. But, so far as the A.R.P. organisation proper is concerned, if my friends will come and discuss the matter with me, I hope I shall be able to convince them that it is not practicable at all to allow parallel organisations or to conceive of parallel organisations (cries of "Oh! oh!" from the Opposition Benches) and work side by side in the same area for this simple reason that there must be unified control and unified arrangement for reporting. All the telephones will be disconnected——(Uproar.)

Mr. SPEAKER: May I appeal to the House that we are discussing matters affecting the life and death of the people. Let us just hear the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I would beg of my honourable friends to remember that it is not an ordinary matter which can be discussed off and on. It is a matter which requires serious consideration—a matter which requires practical solution and going into details and tackling them. If, on consideration of the matter from such a point of view, you can suggest means by which as an organisation you can be associated with A.R.P., I shall most gladly consider that, but my friends say that they cannot help us. I know that absolute ignorance may give rise to all sorts of comments, but if you care to come and study the situation properly you will realise that we cannot do otherwise than what I am doing now.

Now, Sir, it is possible for my friends to say that they cannot join the A.R.P.——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not under the control of the police.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I respect that point of view. I cannot force you to join the A.R.P. organisation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Under the Commissioner of Police.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: But it is also under Government which is a servant of this House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Which is also a servant of the Commissioner of Police. Ministers are servants of the Commissioner of Police.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, I do object to these statements.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you are interfering with the proceedings of the House in a manner which is against all parliamentary traditions which we are all anxious to maintain.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I submit, Sir, that in view of the important statement that the Hon'ble Minister was making it is equally important that the position of important organisations should be clarified, and I submit, Sir, that Dr. Sanyal was doing nothing more than trying to clarify the position. (Uproar.) It is no use giving an evasive reply and, at the same time, protesting and professing that it is a most important and vital question that has got to be tackled calmly and quietly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am glad to find that Dr. Sanyal and Mr. Shahabuddin are agreed on one point (laughter), but I may only say that I do not find Dr. Sanyal or anybody vindicating the position of a party or organisation. Mr. Shahabuddin will kindly remember that the main allegation was that "Ministers are servants of the Commissioner of Police".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I never wanted to disturb the proceedings of the House—— (Uproar.)

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: May I rise on a point of order, Sir?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I have been impunged for having disturbed the proceedings of the House. I submit, Sir,——

Mr. SPEAKER: When there is a point of order raised, let us follow the parliamentary procedure.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: A point of order cannot be raised before a point of explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I allow him to do it. Let us hear the point of order.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I shall not try to imitate the manners of Dr. Sanyal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is that a point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: He must withdraw what he said.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

(Cries of "He must withdraw", "he must withdraw" from the Progressive Coalition Party Benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. If you continue like this, I shall have no other alternative but to put the demand to the House and leave it to its decision.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I want to offer a personal explanation.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let Dr. Sanyal give his personal explanation.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I stand upon the dignity of the House. Why should he be given the privilege of calling the Minister "a servant of the Commissioner of Police"?

Mr. SPEAKER: I must be allowed an opportunity to give my decision as to whether he should withdraw or not, but trained as I have been in the profession of law all along my life I consider even the worst criminal should be given an opportunity to have his say. Therefore I call upon Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal to give his personal explanation, and I shall decide afterwards.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have no intention of disturbing the proceedings of the House. What I said was this. The Ministers are helpless and in some respects they have to accept the orders of the Commissioner of Police. (The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Certainly not.) It was evident from the detention and removal of no less a person than Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose who could not be retained in Calcutta for even 24 hours. If that is not the position I want to know what it is.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I shall find out what was the expression used by Dr. Sanyal and then give my decision.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: May I intervene and say a few words, Sir?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House wants to make a statement. Let him finish. After that I shall allow you to raise your point of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I thought it my duty to intervene because the subject under discussion is of such great importance as to transcend all party or sectional considerations. It is not for me to blame any Government because if I were to do that I would

only be blaming myself. I know, Sir, that so far as the old Government is concerned it is not for them to meet the situation and to make ample provision for the protection of Calcutta and its citizens. Sometime after the outbreak of war we were negligent because we felt——

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I protest against this kind of statement. I do not think that it is fair to the old Government. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has no business to make that kind of statement.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am coming to the explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chief Minister has not yet made his full statement.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: He says that the old Government was negligent.

Mr. SPEAKER: He says that for some time they were negligent.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I don't agree with that.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have not even finished my sentence. We were negligent because we felt that the scene of operations of the war was so far away that the danger of India being involved in the war was very remote. I never meant to insinuate that Sir Nazimuddin or any of the other Ministers were negligent in their duties but what I said was that our outlook was one of, if not inactivity, at least something like negligence. However, the events have moved with a swiftness for which we were not prepared.

So far as A. R. P. service is concerned, efforts have been made to enlist the co-operation of non-officials. Without entering into the controversy at the present moment, may I request the House to consider the suggestion which I wish to make? Cannot the leaders of all sections of the House meet us and tell us exactly what their suggestions are for organising the defence of the city? We are prepared to accept their suggestions and go to the farthest length to do what is humanly possible in order to save the city and its citizens. I do not want that arrangements should be made in a slipshod way.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is always the case with you.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is possible to interrupt and criticize me. But the proposal I am putting forward before the House is one of peace at a time when we should be united against external enemies. My appeal is this: Let all the leaders of different groups meet together and let us have their definite suggestions, instead of wasting time in mere criticisms, attacks and counter-attacks. If Dr. Sanyal himself has got any suggestions to make I shall be most happy to receive them and to act upon them.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir,——

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I should be given an opportunity to speak first because my name has been mentioned.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I shall gladly give way to Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The Hon'ble Chief Minister has made a statement, which I think is definitely unfair to the old Government. Actually instead of being negligent and not taking the matter seriously, the old Government was the only Government which took the matter very seriously. (The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I agree.) As far as the Calcutta Corporation was concerned it was they who refused to believe in the possibility of air raids over Calcutta. I refer the members of the House to the reports of their meetings and resolutions and what the nationalist papers said about this matter. Actually as far as the A. R. P. and the Civil Defence are concerned, the Government of Bengal was even more pressing and even more anxious about them than the Government of India. In view of the difficulties of not receiving any response from the citizens of Calcutta, and particularly, Sir, from the members of the party who are now co-operating with Government, who were in the Corporation and who refused to believe in the possibilities of air raid, the organisation that was set up cannot be criticised. I submit that at the present moment, in view of the imminence of danger, the attitude of the honourable members on the opposite side may have changed but six months ago they sang a different tune. It is not fair therefore on the part of the present Government to come and criticize the action of the old Government for the organisation that was set up by them, specially in view of the fact that the Corporation of Calcutta deliberately refused to co-operate with us at that time. So far as the officers who were appointed are concerned, I think we had confidence in the ability of those officers to do their work under the circumstances in which they were to be placed. Now, Sir, as regards this offer of a joint discussion proposed by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, if a formal invitation is

issued to us, it may be considered and we will consider also the point that it is no use placing the excuse of an emergency on our shoulders and at the same time carrying on repression on members of our party, especially Muslim League workers. Parliamentary work is being absolutely stopped and is being obstructed. As far as this important question of life and safety of the people of this province is concerned, we have not put any obstruction whatsoever in any way and we are not prepared to do so; but, if necessary, we also recognise that the Muslim League and the Congress organisation should form volunteer corps which should assist in the Civil Defence and A. R. P. work to a large extent, and on this point we are agreed on the view that has been expressed by the official and recognised Congress Group. If an invitation is sent to us in a proper manner, we are prepared to consider it.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, I am sorry that so much heat has been generated on a matter which is so very important and vital to us all. We wish to have a full explanation from the Hon'ble Minister. I would therefore request you, Sir, to stop this debate that you have allowed, for we are only getting entagled more and more into matters which are not relevant to the real issue. As regards Dr. Sanyal's remark, I was not able to hear it clearly. It was really meant to be a criticism of the present constitutional position: but whatever it was, it was mainly a comment on the present constitution under the Government of India Act. It was not, so far as I understand it, a reflection on any particular Minister. In that view of things, if you agree, I would request you to drop the matter altogether: of course, whether it should be dropped or not entirely depends on you, Sir. ("No, no", from the Government Benches.) Therefore it is no use asking me not to put forward my views about it. At the same time, Sir, I would like you to allow the Hon'ble Minister to proceed with his explanation because this is a very important matter. We want to co-operate in the matter of protection of the civil population of Calcutta to the fullest possible extent and at the same time we want our organisation to work independently of the Government organisation. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will pardon me if I say that his explanation was a little vague. I would like the Hon'ble Minister to make it perfectly clear to us as to whether the present organisation of ours will be allowed to co-operate in A. R. P. work with the governmental organisation, keeping our organisation independent, independent of the Government organisation. I would request you and the House to consider that important point instead of wasting our time in these recriminations.

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the European Party may I be permitted to say that it seems to us that this

is not the time, when we are apprehending air-raids or the possibility of air-raids, to indulge in mutual recriminations and in investigations as to what has or has not taken place in the past. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister has made an appeal to the leaders of the different parties to get together and get something done, and this, I submit, requires serious consideration at the present moment. It is not the past that matters but action for the present and for the future is urgently called for. On behalf of the European Party, Sir, I welcome the Chief Minister's appeal and we will be only too happy to co-operate.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, Mr. Hendry and his group have not understood our position——

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret I cannot allow you to take part in this debate. I will allow the leaders of the parties but certainly I cannot allow the matter to be debated upon.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I want to make an appeal to the Chief Minister, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow that. Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: If you allow me to resume the debate, I shall first of all refer to the invitation which the Leader of the Congress Party has extended to me for the purpose of elaborating the point of view that I was trying to elaborate when all these interruptions took place; I welcome this query because it gives me an opportunity of making our position clear with regard to this very important question that has been raised. What I was trying to develop is that ever since this new portfolio of Civil Defence was created and placed in my charge, I have been trying to investigate the possibility of associating these great public organisations of our country with the work of Civil Defence of Calcutta and of the province and I have been looking into the matter very closely, and with the limited intelligence vouchsafed to me I have come to the conclusion so far, subject to any correction that may be made, that it is not possible for voluntary organisations, purely from the point of view of the work to be done——

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That is the point we wanted to know so long——

(At this stage there were loud cries from the Opposition Benches as well as counter-cries from the other side.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu.

(When the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu was in possession of the House and was speaking, there was a tremendous noise in the House.)

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will you, Mr. Speaker, allow me to say a few words in this connection?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Stop shouting, please.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I have a right to speak and I must. Will you kindly allow me to say a few words, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Fazlur Rahman, I find that the Leader of the Opposition is very carefully listening to the speech of the Hon'ble Minister and I will be prepared to give him an opportunity later on, should he like to say anything. But I appeal to you and to the House to allow this debate to go on without interruption.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I rise to a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, my point of order is this. I submit that the Hon'ble Minister was not in order when he shouted "stop shouting", addressing an honourable member belonging to this side direct.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: What I was going to suggest, Sir, was that I was not going to give in to any sort of interruptions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have all along said that it is most undesirable that anybody in this House, be he a Minister or a member, should make any direct reference whatever using any word of ejaculation or interjection.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am thankful to you, Sir; for this warning which I hope will go home to the quarters for which it was meant. What I was suggesting is that, so far as I have been able to study purely from the technical point of view of A. R. P. work, it is not possible for parallel organisations to run side

by side without any unified control. If that point of view is wrong, I shall be most happy to revise that point of view provided I am convinced that from the point of view of essential work of saving the population of the city at the time of an air-raid, it is possible for parallel organisations to function properly side by side——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: For saving the people!

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Yes, it is for saving the people and not for killing them!

If I am convinced by my friends in this House or outside that it is possible, I shall be most happy, as I have said, to revise the method which has so far been adopted and to invite parallel organisations to work side by side in the matter of fighting against the ravages of the bomb. That is a consummation which is devoutly to be wished for. Organisations are coming forward to help us in any capacity that they think proper and convenient to them, provided it does not interfere with the essential work of saving human life and property. But that is the point of view which has so far been adopted and which holds the field now. There are other fields of work to which these organisations will be invited to work and operate even as organisations without joining any Government organisation at all. That is an invitation which stands now and which will continue to stand.

So far as the work of street fire parties is concerned, I have already decided and I have already invited—if it has not been done publicly, at least informally—that the work of fighting fire in different houses and buildings may be entrusted to non-official agencies without the obligation on their part to join any official organisation. Here is a class of work to which Dr. Sanyal and his friends may very gladly come and join. There are the questions of relief after an air-raid, relief to people who are moving out of the city in panic, the question of regulating the crowd and the question of giving relief to them. Even at the present moment the work of rendering relief to the evacuees who are pouring into this province has already been entrusted to non-official organisation. Therefore, most of the work which can be done without in any way interfering with technical requirements of A. R. P. and Civil Defence work can be entrusted, has been entrusted and will be entrusted to non-official organisations as such. I know very well that Dr. Sanyal was very generous in coming forward and offering me his assistance in civil defence work at a very early stage. My friend Dr. Sanyal has made a reference to it. At that time he gave me a scheme in which he visualised himself as the Transportation Adviser to the Civil Defence Department, of course in an honorary capacity.

At that point of time, I could not very well utilise his services so generously offered. I do not know whether the members of his party were with him in the request which he made. I am not quite sure. Probably he was not supported by the other members of his party who also did me the honour of going and interviewing me along with him. They conferred with me and gave me the assistance of their advice.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: In response to your invitation.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Yes, my friend reminds me that I invited them. That credit is given to me so generously by Mr. J. C. Gupta. I myself invited these gentlemen to come and discuss Dr. Sanyal's scheme with me. At that stage Dr. Sanyal very generously offered his services. I could not at that moment fit him in with the scheme that was then in existence. But probably when the large crowds move out of Calcutta and the question of transportation arises, a gentleman of Dr. Sanyal's standing, experience and knowledge in matters of transport may help us in solving our transportation problem. I know that very well and the time is not yet when his services can be definitely and effectively eliminated from our scheme. There are also others, I know, in the Congress circles who are given to relief work, who have faced dangers, who have stood risks in the matter of, for instance, earthquake relief, flood relief and relief of people gathering and congregating in times of fairs and bathing festivals. They can stand the strain, they can face the risk and that is the kind of stuff we want for the purpose of manning our A. R. P. services. But as I have submitted with the utmost humility before the House it must fit in with the scheme of essential protection of the city against the ravages of bombs. So long as that is safeguarded, I am prepared to bring them even within the A. R. P. organisation, provided that is found possible from the technical point of view. There are various difficulties in the way. The reporting will have to be done through telephones which will be disconnected. One single commander there must be to fight the enemy when actually engaged in a battle raging in the air. And from that point of view if it is possible, as I have said, I shall consider the question. The Hon'ble the Leader of the House has thrown out this invitation which has been accepted more or less by the different leaders. I hope that it will materialise and I shall be given that assistance which I am craving at your hands not in a spirit of flippancy, not in a spirit of defiance but in a spirit of utmost humility. Remembering all that Mr. Jalan has said that the whole province will blame this Minister if our arrangements collapse, I hope and trust that the House will save us from such a calamity in a spirit of friendliness, in a spirit of perfect

understanding and not in the spirit in which we are disposed to carry on the business of this House as Opposition and as Government. I hope this appeal which I am making will be taken in the spirit in which it has been made.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I put one question of a specific character?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 70,23,000 under the head "Extraordinary Charges" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. I. D. Jalan that the demand of Rs. 70,23,000 under the head "Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question before the House is the main demand——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, before you put the main demand, will you please allow me to put one small question of——

Mr. SPEAKER: I consider that this is a matter of vital importance.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I do not like to interrupt. There will be no heat. It is a small question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know. I have experience of such simplest questions in my life.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, please allow me. I said the matter is so important.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is exactly what I am saying.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I——

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you are obstructing the proceedings of the House. Let me finish.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I crave your indulgence.

Mr. SPEAKER: The matter is of such importance and specially in view of the many points that have been raised, I feel that it cannot

be settled by mere discussion like this across. If it is the desire of the House, I think the matter should be discussed threadbare amongst the members, preferably before amongst the leaders.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister was prepared to give his statement regarding the position that Government have taken and you appealed to us not to interrupt him by any question.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have no right to do it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We actually accepted the position. You also at the same time gave us an indication that if any question comes up, you will give an opportunity.

Mr. SPEAKER: I say if it is your desire then I will ask you to communicate with your Leader and if he is satisfied that the question should be put, let him put it.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Has the Secretary brought the report of the words used?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will just look into that.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, this is a question relating to the refugees and a formal letter was addressed to the Government by the Marwari Relief Society. I do not think it will generate any heat.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no question of heat. You know my position. At whatever stage it may be, if a Leader of a party wants a matter to be thrashed out, whether it is relevant and whether it strictly arises or not, I have permitted him to do so. I would, therefore, ask you to look into the question if you like, but I will not allow Dr. Sanyal to put it. (Laughter.) You have got to be satisfied with that.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: May I rise on a point of order, Sir? Does the Chair possess the power to stop a member of this House from his privilege to speak and draw attention to any points before the House?

Mr. SPEAKER: If it is within rules we cannot do so. But now the debate has been closed on this issue and so nobody has a right to refer to it unless I specially permit him to do so. Ordinarily, I would

have no objection but the fact is that Dr. Sanyal has given expression to a term which is still before the House. That question has to be settled first of all.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I shall speak on that.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, my point of order was raised with a view that individual members should not be put under the absolutely crushing powers of these leaders. (Laughter.)

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, will you kindly allow Dr. Sanyal to put that question?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. I now will.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, my question is simple. The Hon'ble Minister has said that, so far as he is concerned, he welcomes the co-operation of non-official organisations. I have a specific instance in which the Marwari Relief Society as well as the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee arranged to send volunteers to meet the refugees from Burma at Babu Ghat and on the requisition they wrote to the Port Police to enable them to work there. The Deputy Commissioner, Port Police, wrote back to say in a letter, dated the 12th, that they have to put themselves in touch with H. Wallace, Esq., Honorary Secretary, His Excellency's Reception Committee, of Messrs. Duncan Brothers, 101, Clive Street, and that without the sanction or approval of this Committee the Port Police could not allow the non-official organisations to function. May I ask the Hon'ble Minister whether that is what is called co-ordination?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, I am thankful to Dr. Sanyal for bringing this matter to my notice. At the present moment a certain organisation has been set up and they have been given not the power but the duty of carrying on the reception of the refugees at the proper places. If any other organisation comes forward to assist in the matter they can either give all assistance, or if they say that such assistance is not possible without the revision of the present arrangement, that also will be taken into consideration. But it is for the first time that I hear of this complaint, and I shall certainly look into it and see what can be done.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu that a sum of Rs. 70,23,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

Expression used by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have now seen a report of what actually took place, and I consider the expression used by Dr. Sanyal as unparliamentary. I would request him to withdraw it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I remember the words used. I said "Ministers are servants of the Commissioner of Police". I did not want to use these words either to disturb the House or to reflect on the conduct of any particular Minister. The whole trend of my statement was that Ministers under the present Constitution are themselves helpless. If my friend Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu thinks that the present Constitution is quite satisfactory to him, that he has enough powers, that he can, although he is technically a mere adviser to the executive head of Government, carry things through and can do things on his own responsibility, though he cannot give a guarantee to the House to keep Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose in this province for even half an hour, then I shall most gladly withdraw it. I only submitted the constitutional position. There was no reflection against any individual Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not satisfied that Dr. Sanyal's explanation is satisfactory. The whole position is this. By constitution, by convention and by all that we have in spite of the constitution, this House is the ultimate authority to discuss matters relating to Ministers and they are in every sense of the term responsible to this House to the extent that whatever responsibility they have they have to accept the decision of this House. I can therefore understand Mr. Basu when he says that the A. R. P. is under Government which is the servant of this House. But to say as against that the Ministers or Government, while they are servants of this House under the new constitution, are also servants of the Commissioner of Police is a statement which I consider to be against the privilege which this House has got. I may be wrong. But as I say, it is not a parliamentary expression. I have given Dr. Sanyal every opportunity to withdraw the expression in view of the fact that in the heat of the moment Dr. Sanyal might have brought in the Commissioner of Police. Dr. Sanyal's statement seems on the surface to be a breach of privilege of the House itself. I will give him one more opportunity to withdraw the expression; otherwise I shall have no other alternative but to take steps.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I draw your attention to the fact that I used the word "Ministers" in the plural and not a Minister or a particular Minister? I had the constitutional point in view. I never missed my point.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am glad that Dr. Sanyal never misses his bus. But this is not a point in which I can exercise my authority as Speaker and make him withdraw the expression if he does not want to do so. I consider that it goes to the root of the question, viz., the exact position of the Ministry *vis-a-vis*, servants of Government. I have no other alternative but to refer the whole matter to the Committee of Privileges.

28—Jails and Convict Settlements.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 8,73,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" during the current year.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,73,000 under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100.

মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়! Jail and Convict Settlementর খাতে অতিরিক্ত বাজেটে যে অতিরিক্ত দাবী উপস্থিত হয়েছে, সে বিষয়ে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আনবার সময় আমি স্বেচ্ছায় জেলের পোষাক এবং বিছানা বিষয়টা বিশেষ কারণে বেছে নিয়ে এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করেছি। এই বিষয়টা বেছে নেওয়ার পিছনে যে প্রয়োজনীয়তা, যে গুরুত্ব এবং যে শ্রেষ্ঠত্ব আছে তা আপনারা একটু পরেই বুঝতে পারবেন। জেলখানার বিছানা ও পোষাক থেকে জেলখানা সম্বন্ধে মানুষের সাধারণ ধারণা জন্মে। এই পোষাক ও বিছানা জেলখানার আভ্যন্তরীণ অবস্থা সম্বন্ধে জেলের স্বরূপ সম্বন্ধে মূর্ত্ত প্রতীক। সেই পোষাকের কথা থেকে একটা গল্পের কথা স্মরণ হচ্ছে। সেইটা সংক্ষেপে বল্‌তে চাই। জেলে যখন প্রথমে যাই—জেলে অবশ্য অনেকবার যেতে হয়েছে এবং এখনও প্রায়ই যেতে হয়—কিন্তু প্রথমে যখন জেলে যাই, জেলের মধ্যে জেলের কয়েদিদের দেখে যে গল্পের কথা স্মরণ হয়েছিল আপনাদের কাছে সেইটা বল্‌লেই আপনারা বুঝতে পারবেন যে এই যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব—পোষাক ও বিছানার ওপরে—আমি এনেছি—তার প্রয়োজনীয়তা ও গুরুত্ব সত্যই কত। গল্পটা এই—কোন এক দূর গ্রামে লোকেদের মনে বিশ্বাস ছিল যে কোন সহরের নাম করা কোন শিল্পী খুব ভাল প্রতিমা গড়তে পারে। তারা সেবারে কালী পূজার সময়ে কালী প্রতিমা গড়াবার জন্য ঐ সহরের নাম করা শিল্পীকে বেশী মজুরি দিয়ে নিয়ে আসে। সেই সহরের শিল্পী এসে গ্রামে যখন কালী প্রতিমা গড়তে আরম্ভ করলে, তখন অনেকে কি রকম ভাবে প্রতিমা গড়ছে তা দেখ্‌তে আসে। অবশ্য আমার বিশ্বাস এখানের সদস্যদের অধিকাংশ জানেন যে কোন প্রতিমার সৌষ্ঠব এবং সৌন্দর্য্য নির্ভর করে প্রথমে খড়ের যে কাঠামো তৈরি করা হয় তার ওপর। সেই খড়ের কাঠামোকে গ্রামের চলতি কথায় একমেটে করা বলে। সেই সহরের শিল্পী যখন বেশী মজুরি পেয়ে গ্রামের মাঝখানে এসে খড়ের কাঠামোতে প্রতিমার একমেটে ক'রল, তখন গ্রামের লোক এসে দেখে অবাক হ'ল; বললে বাবা, এই নামকরা

শিল্পী যার এত মজরি। তারা সেই কাঠামো দেখে পরস্পরের মুখ চেয়ে বলতে থাকে—এ কী। তখন তাদের একজন আর থাকতে না পেরে বল্লে—বাবা, তুমি বিদায় হও; তুমি যা প্রতিমা গড়বে, তা তোমার কাঠামো বানানোতেই বুঝতে পেরেছি। "মা আমার একমেটেতেই মূর্ত্তিমতী"। তেমনি জেলখানায় যে কোন মানুষ যাক, জেলের কয়েদিদের পোষাক দেখলেই প্রথমে মনে হবে এটাই জেলের প্রতিক—"মা আমার একমেটেতে মূর্ত্তিমতী"। অবশ্য যদি মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয়কে জেলখানার পীতধড়া মোহনচূড়া এঁটে মন্ত্রীত্ব করতে হ'ত তাহলে বহুদিন আগেই এর পরিবর্ত্তন সাধিত হোত। কিন্তু তা ত হয়নি। জেলখানায় স্বীকার করি, সমাজের শান্তি ও শৃঙ্খলা ভঙ্গ করার অপরাধে অনেককে রাখতে হয় কিন্তু যদি তাদের জীবনকে বাঁচিয়ে রাখবার কোন রকম ব্যবস্থা থাকে, তবে সেই জীবনকে সুস্থ ও সবল রাখবার জন্য যে অপরিহার্য্য পরিমাণ পোষাক ও বিছানা দরকার, তার ব্যবস্থা হওয়া উচিত। পোষাকের বিবরণ পূরো দিতে গেলে অনেক সময় লাগবে। সংক্ষেপে বলি প্রথমেই ধরা যাক্—সব চেয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় যে দুটো কম্বল। পৌরাণিক মান্ধাতার জন্মেরও পূর্ব্বকালীন স-জর, অজর নয়, শাশ্বত, অনাদি অনন্ত, শত রোগের বীজাণু বিজড়িত সেই কম্বল দুটী—গরমের দিনে সে হেন কম্বল-শয়নে মিদনাপুর, দমদম প্রভৃতি বিখ্যাত জেলগুলির মশারিবিহীন অবস্থায়, ততোধিক প্রখ্যাত মশকবাহিনীর কুজন-গুঞ্জন যে কি মধুর এবং তাহা "কাণের ভিতর দিয়া মরমে পশিয়া" প্রাণে যে পুলক সঞ্চার করে, তাদের তৃষিত অধরের সাগ্রহ পরশণ হরষণে পুলকিত দেহে যে স্থায়ী রোমাঞ্চের সৃষ্টি করে, তার কিছু কিছু বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা নেবার জন্য আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি। কাজেই আমি জেলখানা—

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Who is the Minister in charge, Sir—the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Hashem Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath Barman or any other Minister—to listen to this beautiful speech?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Where is he, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: He is here.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: আমি যা বলতে ছিলাম জেলখানায় এই মশারিবিহীন অবস্থায় কয়েদীর ভাগ্য কি হয় আপনারা যাঁরা জেলে না গিয়েছেন তাঁরা অন্তরে এই Houseএ——

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of privilege, Sir. Is it the privilege of the House to demand that the Minister in charge will remain in his seat at the time of the debate? Will you please see to it that the privilege of the House is maintained? After all it is in your

hands. Are you going to permit the Hon'ble Chief Minister to go wandering about talking to his followers—Heaven knows what he is talking about—wholly unmindful of the debate?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will you be pleased to postpone the debate until the Ministers are in their proper places?

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY : আমি বল্‌ছিলাম জেলখানার পোষাক এবং বিছানার স্বরূপ থেকে, জেলখানা কি, তার কি রূপ, তা ধরা যায়। এই রূপের আর একটা দিক আছে আপনারা জানেন, সারা দিন হাড়ভাঙ্গা পরিশ্রমের পর, জেলখানার শতকরা ৯০এর বেশী—অধিকাংশ তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর কয়েদী, তারা যখন তাদের নির্দ্দিষ্ট বিশ্রাম স্থলে, অর্থাৎ সেই দুটো কম্বলের বিছানায় আসে, তখন তাদের কি অবস্থা হয়, সেটা একবার স্মরণ করিয়ে দিতে চাই। আপনারা হয়ত অনেকে পঞ্চমুণ্ডী আসনের কথা শুনে থাক্‌বেন। অন্ততঃ এখানের হিন্দু সদস্যদের এটা জানা উচিত। মুসলমান ও খৃষ্টান বন্ধুদের না জানবার কথা। আমি সেই পঞ্চমুণ্ডী আসনের সঙ্গে তুলনা দিয়ে জেলখানার রাত্রে নির্দ্দিষ্ট বিশ্রামের অবস্থার সঙ্গে আপনাদের একটু ওয়াকিবহাল কর্‌তে চাই। পঞ্চমুণ্ডী আসন হ'ল হিন্দুদের যোগ সাধনার পথে একটা বিশিষ্ট আসন বিশেষ। কোন একটা স্থানের চারধারে মৃত জন্তুর আস্ত মাথার কঙ্কাল রাখা হয়—আর মাঝখানে একটা রাখা হয়। এই পঞ্চমুণ্ডী আসনের নিয়ম হচ্ছে, যদি কোন সাধক উচ্চাবস্থায় না উঠে তার কোন অংশ স্পর্শ করে, তবে সে তৎক্ষণাৎ শূন্যে নিক্ষিপ্ত হয়। সারাদিন পরিশ্রমের পর মশারিবিহীন বিছানার মাঝখানে কয়েদী যখন যায়, তখন সেই জায়গাগুলোর প্রক্ষেপ-প্রবণতা যে কি প্রচণ্ড তা যারা জেলখানায় গিয়েছে, তারাই জানে। জানিনে ইংরেজী bedding কথায় মশারি অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয় কি না। কিন্তু bedding যদি শোয়ার জন্য এবং শোওয়া যদি বিশ্রাম এবং নিদ্রার জন্য হয়, তবে আমি মাননীয় স্বরাষ্ট্রসচিব মহোদয়কে বলব যে এই জেলখানার beddingটাকে এবং বিশ্রাম স্থলটাকে পঞ্চমুণ্ডীর আসন কর্‌বেন না। জেলখানার পোষাক ও পরিচ্ছদ নিয়ে যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব এনেছি, তার সম্বন্ধে আমার বক্তব্য শেষ কর্‌বার পূর্ব্বে জেল সংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারে, এবং জেলের নিয়ম কানুন সম্বন্ধে মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ের যে ঔদাসিন্য সে সম্বন্ধে কিছু না বলে থাক্‌তে পারি না। গত বছর যখন জেলে ছিলাম, তখন এই মন্ত্রীমহোদয়দের ঔদাসিন্যের ফলে জেলের আইন-কানুন সম্বন্ধে কি রকম অপব্যবহার করা হয়, সেটা Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal সম্বন্ধে যে প্রশ্ন শ্রদ্ধেয় বন্ধু সত্যপ্রিয় বাবু এনেছিলেন, তার উত্তর থেকে দেখা যায়। তাতে দেখা যায় যে সত্যই জেলখানার শাসন ব্যাপারে মন্ত্রীমহোদয়দের কোন নজর নেই; সেখানে দেখা যায় যে সময় Dr. Sanyal মহাশয়ের interview বন্ধ করা হয়—তার জন্য মন্ত্রীমহোদয়দের কাছে যখন প্রার্থনা ও আবেদন জানান হয়, তাও তাঁরা শোনেন নি। যাক—আমার বক্তব্য শেষ কর্‌বার পূর্ব্বে আমি মন্ত্রীমহোদয়কে এ বিষয়ে একটু নেক-নজর রাখ্‌তে বলি, যার ফলে জেলখানার অধিকাংশ তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর কয়েদীদের বাসস্থানগুলি সত্যই বাসের উপযুক্ত হয়। এই বলে আমার ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করছি।

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: In supporting this motion I do so as a protest against the manner in which the Jails Department is being administered. I charge the Government with utilising the purse for the purpose of supporting the spirit of the new era. The spirit behind the new era has been demonstrated to-day by no less a person than the Hon'ble Minister for Education himself when he said that new orders have been passed under which members of the Muslim League party have been eliminated from the Advisory Committees for the appointment of marriage registrars. Sir, when we were in power we included all Muslim members within a particular area and made them members of the Advisory Committee, irrespective of the party to which they belonged. We made no discrimination whatsoever between members of the Opposition or members of the Ministerialist party. The new era therefore——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. Suhrawardy, to interrupt you. The point you are developing is quite irrelevant to the subject matter under discussion.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am just coming to the Jail Department, Sir.

The spirit behind the new era is a spirit of revengefulness and vindictiveness and it is this spirit which is pervading the Jail administration. I call the attention of the Chief Minister to what took place at Barisal when he visited his homeland——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, what has that got to do with the demand under discussion? I am sorry, Mr. Suhrawardy, you know very well that that matter you can well discuss when the main Jail demand comes up.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, as this question involves a constitutional position so far as the right of criticism of the Opposition is concerned, I should like a clarification from you, Sir, on this point. Though the past Ministry may be responsible for this expenditure, the demands have been brought in by the present Government and by cut motions only the Opposition will have an opportunity to discuss the policy of the present Government on those matters. It does not matter——

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you can raise a discussion on this particular grant.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Whether the expenditure relates to the past Government or to the present Government I believe it is open to

the Opposition to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government on this grant. That is, I believe, the constitutional position.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can certainly criticise the policy of the present Government only so far as it relates to the supplementary demand now under discussion.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, the old Ministry is not responsible for the entire grant.

Well, Sir, in view of your ruling I shall not pursue the matter further. I shall avail myself of an opportunity when the main Jails budget will come up.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: In view of your ruling, Sir, I ask what should be the function of the Opposition about these cut motions?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am now dealing with a particular supplementary demand relating to the Jails Department and only the relevant issue and the principle behind this particular grant should be brought in and nothing more than that.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must apologise to the House and to you, for having become garrulous in my old age ——(several voices from the Progressive Coalition party: "Who says you are old?", "You are still going young!") but I promise not to take more than two minutes of the precious time of this House.

Sir, I beg to support this motion and in supporting it I wish to place certain facts before the House, especially before the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this Department. The treatment towards prisoners in jails, especially with regard to clothing and bedding, has been scandalous. On the 22nd of this month at 2 p.m., 105 security prisoners were brought from Hijli for transfer to the Dacca Jail. They arrived here in Calcutta but it was found impossible to catch the Dacca Mail. For three or four hours these 105 prisoners were kept confined within a van at the Sealdah Station but no arrangement was made either for their food or for their rest. One of the prisoners fainted away in the van——

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It was a black hole!

Mr. KIRAN SINKAR ROY: It was worse than a black hole!

As I was saying, Sir, they had no bedding and even they had no water to drink——

Mr. SPEAKER: You are concerned only with bedding and not water! (Laughter.)

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: As I have said, Sir, one of them fainted away. This is the state of things in the jail. Then, one of the prisoners, Srijut Satish Chandra Chakravarty, President of the Khulna District Congress Committee, who has one of his legs paralysed, was practically dragged from the van to the railway compartment. Sir, I do not know whether these facts are known to the Chief Minister. I hope he will take a note of these facts. I do not pretend that my statements are accurate on every point but substantially they are correct. I hope that these incidents will not recur under the present regime.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Before I reply generally to this debate I wish to say a few words regarding some remarks of my friend, Mr. Suhrawardy. Misstatements are permissible in newspaper reports but it is regrettable if a member who till recently held the position of a member of the Cabinet of Bengal should make statements regarding matters which are not true. It is not true that this Government have been deliberately excluding members of the Opposition from Committees for the appointment of marriage registrars. As regards these committees, if my friend cares to look into the lists of members for the districts of Tippera and Dacca, he will find that the committees include many names of members who are now in the Opposition.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We included them.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Not you, but I did it: I was in charge.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry you are dealing with a matter which is quite irrelevant.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have only made a passing reference because this particular extraneous matter was brought in by Mr. Suhrawardy.

Now, Sir, as regards the motion itself, I wish to tell this House that the rules regarding clothing and bedding of prisoners have recently been revised and all possible amenities concerning the physical comforts of them have been provided but that is not all. The question of these amenities is still engaging our attention. The old Jail Code requires thorough overhauling and it is the intention of the Government to make necessary changes in the Jail Code as early as possible. So long as the Jail Code is not revised and permission is not given to

Government to intervene it is not possible for us, even though we feel the utmost sympathy for the conditions of prison life, to do anything substantial. Sir, expenditure on this account has largely increased due to increase in jail population and rise in cost. I can give the House this assurance that although a certain amount of discipline has always got to be maintained in jail and certain rules and regulations have to be laid down, this Government will not be unmindful of their duties to see that their prisoners are treated with every possible consideration.

The remarks that have been made by my friend Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy have been of great help to me and I undertake, in collaboration with friends both on this side of the House and in the Opposition, to do all that is possible to be done to remove the genuine grievances. As a matter of fact we are receiving complaints and enquiries are being made and in the light of opinion that we receive and the materials that are forthcoming we propose to undertake revision of the Jail Code. As soon as that is done I hope we will be able to give further relief to these jail prisoners.

Sir, I have to oppose this motion.

The motion of Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy that the demand of Rs. 8,73,000 under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq that a sum of Rs. 8,73,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" during the current year, was then put and agreed to.

7—Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor I beg to move that the Legislative Assembly do vote the demand of Rs. 3,25,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue—Supplementary Estimate".

Sir, there has been this excess expenditure and the explanatory memorandum on pages 2 and 3 will in brief give you the reasons for the demand which is now being put forward by me on behalf of the Governor of Bengal.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave of you to move that the demand of Rs. 31,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue—B—Management of Government Estates" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, আমি এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব অতি অল্প কথাতেই শেষ করতে চাই। প্রথমে ১৯৩৭ সালে যখন আমরা Provincial Autonomyর আমলে

এলাম, তখন গভর্ণমেণ্ট Bengal Tanancy Act দ্বারা জমিদারদের কাছ থেকে certificate প্রথা সরিয়ে নিয়েছিলেন। তারপর কৃষক-প্রজাদলের চাপে এবং মুস্লীম লীগের অনেক member মিলে গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছ থেকে certificate প্রথা—যা খাসমহলে ছিল—suspend করে নিলে। সেই অনুসারে খাসমহলে certification suspended থাকে। কিন্তু কিছুদিন পরে যে কারণেই হোক, কোন কোন (officer) অফিসারের তদ্বিরে কাঁথি খাসমহলে certificate প্রথা পুনরায় প্রবর্ত্তিত হয়। আমি একথা বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলের কাছে এবং বিশেষ করে বর্ত্তমান মাননীয় রাজস্ব সচিবের কাছে নিবেদন করতে চাই। তিনি যেন এই প্রথা কাঁথি খাসমহল থেকে উঠিয়ে নেন।

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. Maiti, your motion is not in order. You see the reason for this particular demand is that certificate procedure has been withdrawn necessitating extra staff. If it has not been withdrawn in any particular place, that will come under the discussion on general Budget.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, it has not been withdrawn in Midnapore; so there was no necessity for extra expenditure for staff. In that sense it is in order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister has claimed some additional amount and the ground given is that certificate procedure has been withdrawn. But we know that the ground is not justifiable in certain areas where certificate procedure has not been withdrawn. The demand is not at least justified to that extent and may be reduced, because in one area the certificate procedure has not been withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not stand in the way of expressing your opinion but the position is this. Because it is not withdrawn from Midnapore, therefore the question of extra staff in Midnapore does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is exactly the point. There are still places, such as Midnapore, where the certificate procedure is still continuing and therefore there is no justification of this demand. The cut motion has therefore been made for Rs. 100 only.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not mean that because Midnapore has not been brought in, the question of staff does not come in.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Sir, I beg to move my motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your motion is not in order. It will come at the time of general discussion of the Budget.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Sir, our difficulty is this. Each party has various motions but chooses certain motions to be pressed finally. If your department thought that my motion was not in order it ought to have stated earlier. In that case we could have pressed for some other motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then the House should have given one month's time and the full staff. I will not wonder if the whole business of the Assembly comes to a standstill for want of proper staff.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 3,25,000 under the head "Land Revenue—Account No. 7—Grant No. 2 (Supplementary)" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, if you look into the note of this Supplementary Demand you will find that the increase is due to the fact that the Lands Enquiry Committee, the Gratuity Committee and the Rent Enquiry Committee which were expected to conclude their deliberations last year did not succeed in doing so and some charges have been thrown on the current year's Budget as a result of their activities being prolonged over the year end.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, by moving this motion I want to elicit some information from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Land Revenue. I want to know when the Lands Enquiry Committee, the Gratuity Committee and the Rent Enquiry Committee were constituted. I further want to know the scope of these enquiry committees and also how many members constituted each committee, how many sittings there were and when these committees submitted their reports. I tried to have a copy of the reports of these enquiry committees from the Bengal Government Press, but I was told that these committees had not by that time submitted their reports. I, therefore, want to know if they have submitted their reports and if so, when. I also want to know what amount of expenditure has been incurred for these committees. I am quite sure, Mr. Speaker, that Government never expect nor they will ever be in a position to give effect to the recommendations of these committees. I want to have all this information, because they will speak for themselves and, I am sure, they are absolutely worthless.

I hope the Hon'ble Minister will supply me with the information stated above. With these words I move the motion that stands in my name.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, I shall first of all reply to the cut motion which has been moved by my honourable friend Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti. Is it out of order, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes; but you may give your reply to the same.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: So far as the point raised by Mr. Maiti is concerned, Government in 1938 ordered that the filing of fresh certificates for the realisation of rent in Government and Court of Ward Estates should be suspended for two years with effect from 14th April, 1938. The matter was again examined in April, 1940, that is, after the expiration of two years from the date of the order and it was decided that the suspension order should be extended for a further period of two years with effect from the 14th April, 1940, subject to the proviso that it would be reintroduced in areas where tenants asked for it and in areas where certain difficulties were not present. Pursuant to the revised order, possibly in the case of Contai Khas Mahal area, certificate procedure was introduced. But the point has been raised by my friend Mr. Maiti and I shall look into the matter.

Then, Sir, with regard to the question raised by my honourable and esteemed friend Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta, he wanted to know certain important points. He raised discussion about the futility of the Lands Enquiry Committee, the Gratuity Committee and the Rent Enquiry Committee and the time taken by these committees in submitting reports.

Sir, the Non-agricultural Lands Enquiry Committee has already submitted its report and the report is under consideration of this Government. A draft Bill was also prepared in order to enact a comprehensive piece of legislation to give better right to non-agricultural tenants of the province.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Would it be introduced this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: This Bill will be introduced as early as possible, but possibly not this session. Mr. Datta should realise that we are living in very abnormal times. The Rent Enquiry Committee was appointed in August, 1938. The notification appeared on the 29th July, 1938, in the local Official Gazette. The notification is to the following effect:—

The Government is pleased to appoint a Committee composed of the undermentioned gentlemen to enquire into the incidence of rent in

the province and also into the existing law regarding reduction of rent and to make recommendations in the matter in due course:—

(1) Member, Board of Revenue, Bengal, Chairman, Ex-officio.

The names of the members were—

(2) Mr. Kader Baksh,

(3) Khan Bahadur Naziruddin Ahmed,

(4) Maulvi Abdul Bari,

(5) Mr. Md. Abdul Jabbar Palwan,

(6) Maulvi Mafizuddin Chowdhury,

(7) Maulvi Aftabuddin Joardar,

(8) Khan Bahadur Jalaluddin Ahmad,

(9) Mr. Abdul Wahab Khan,

(10) Mr. Upendranath Edbar,

(11) Mr. Patiram Roy,

(12) Mr. J. N. Basu,

(13) Maharajadhiraj Uday Chand Mahtab (then Maharajkumar),

(14) Mr. Haripada Chattopadhyaya,

(15) Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas,

(16) Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri,

(17) Mr. G. Morgan,

(18) Director of Land Records,

and another ex-officio gentleman who was to have acted as Secretary to the Committee.

The name of Mr. Fazlur Rahman was subsequently added.

The Rent Enquiry Committee was appointed in August, 1938, to enquire into the incidence of rent of the Province and also into the existing law regarding reduction of rent and to make recommendations in the matter. The Committee has not yet submitted its report to Government. The delay in submitting the report is due to the fact that the Committee was obliged to visit different localities to study local conditions in order to enable it to complete its labour and present its final report. Sir, I cannot agree that the labours of this Committee have been absolutely futile. Government have drafted a legislative measure on the recommendations of the Non-agricultural Committee and are certain that they will be benefited by the recommendations of the Rent Enquiry Committee in formulating a measure for the reduction of rent. Sir, I oppose the motion.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 3,25,000 under the head "Land Revenue—Account No. 7—Grant No. 2 (Supplementary)" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: May I submit a few words, Mr. Speaker, to show that my motion is relevant? On page 3 of the estimate we find "Survey, Settlement and Record operations. The increase is due partly to the fact that the original estimates were drawn up on too conservative a basis and partly to unforeseen complications which have arisen in course of the operations". At page 21) we find the following headings, viz., "Survey, settlement and record operations —Major settlement operations—Pay of establishment—Field establishment—Executive Subordinates (voted)—Allowances honoraria, etc.—Compensation for dearness of food (voted), etc." All these things in connection with the settlement operations are going on in the districts of Faridpur and Bakarganj. Page 2 of the Estimate also indicates the expenditure in connection with those operations. So, Sir, my motion is relevant. I shall make definite suggestions in which way there has been inordinate haste in recording and hearing cases. I may therefore be permitted to move my motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am very sorry to say that I do not agree with you. I have considered the matter very carefully and I think that a general discussion on this subject, viz., "Disputes and Objections and Cases of Corruption and Jobbery" is such a large matter that it cannot be confined to Faridpur only. It may be extended throughout the province. I hold that the motion is not in order.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee that a sum of Rs. 3,25,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

9—Stamps.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 15,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps" during the current year.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Business before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I proceed further with the business on the agenda, I should like to explain to the House that Government have given notice of the motion to consider the Bengal Touts Bill as

passed by the Council on the 5th of March. That will take only about 10 minutes. Friday, the 6th, is a non-official day. I referred this matter to Government and they have agreed that so far as that Bill is concerned it may be taken on the 27th of March, on which day there is another Government Bill which has been passed by the Council. As regards the 6th, it has been arranged that Government will, after the Budget is over, allot another day in lieu thereof for non-official business.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May we submit, Sir, before you give your ruling——

Mr. SPEAKER: It is no ruling. There will be an extra non-official day after the budget is over instead of the non-official day next week. Now is the time of emergency and a large number of members are anxious to look to their own affairs. Instead of bringing them only for a short while on the 5th, it is proposed that the House will be adjourned till the 9th of March and instead of having non-official business next Friday—not to-morrow—members will have an extra non-official day after the budget.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I submit in this connection that we have had certain difficulty already felt due to the shutting out of the first non-official day, i.e., last Friday. We are afraid that this attempt at shunting off the non-official Resolutions day is largely due to the fact that as a result of the ballot a very important resolution of Mr. Satyapriya Banerjee has got precedence, viz., "This Assembly is of opinion that persons convicted or detained by order of the Government of Bengal under the Defence of India Act and Rules framed thereunder be immediately and unconditionally released".

Mr. SPEAKER: May I intervene just for a second? I took up the matter with Government only on the suggestion made to me from the Opposition. Please do not attribute motive to anybody so rashly.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I stand here on the authority of the Leader of the Opposition who himself advised me not to have the non-official day shut out.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: May I just explain? It is quite correct that the Leader of the Opposition does not want a non-official day to be given up. But I had a talk with the Hon'ble Speaker and as he has just now explained the idea is this that instead of having a sitting on the 6th of March which is a non-official day for Resolutions, there will be a day allotted after the budget is over.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There will be another non-official day then.

Mr. SPEAKER: This will be over and above that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: After the budget is passed, the House cannot meet. The House cannot possibly be detained for a non-official day after the budget is over. After the budget is over, the whole business will have finished. We at least of the Congress Group, even if my friends of the Muslim League are agreeable, shall not be a party to this postponement. We want to take the earliest opportunity of discussing the important resolution urging the release of persons convicted or detained by orders of the Government of Bengal immediately and unconditionally. We are not in a position to accept any postponement of the discussion on such an important resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand your fortunate position. But members from Chittagong are anxious to go back to look after their own affairs. There is the human problem. If there is such an urgency—I cannot say what will happen after the 15th of March because I shall not be here—it may be possible to have an afternoon session one-day between the 9th and 15th. There is no bar to that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Can that day be announced?

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall try to fix a day for non-official business between the 9th and 15th in the afternoon as soon as possible.

13—Other Taxes and Duties.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" during the current year.

The motion was put and agreed to.

29—Police.

Mr. SPEAKER: Who is going to move this demand? The Hon'ble Chief Minister is not here.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We would like the Hon'ble Minister in charge to be present.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Let me move, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How can he move unless he takes the responsibility? Am I to understand that he is functioning as the Home Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: You need not understand anything beyond this that I am moving this demand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the Minister in charge taken your leave?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

(At this stage, the Hon'ble Chief Minister came in.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Here is the Hon'ble Chief Minister. You said that he took your leave.

Mr. SPEAKER: He took my leave and he has come back. I must say, Dr. Sanyal, you are behaving like a master of the house or something more than that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We submit that you will please act according to the conventions and rules of the Assembly.

Mr. SPEAKER: You please see that you don't break open the doors of the office with your umbrella!

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I also submit that you don't shut the doors of the office against members. Please don't hold the office within closed doors.

Mr. SPEAKER: It will be done as before.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 11,93,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police" during the current year.

The motion was put and agreed to.

40—Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI Khan (on behalf of the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 10,67,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" during the current year.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 10,67,000 under the head "Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. Sir, I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the wasteful and inefficient methods adopted in checking and licensing work and the unwise step taken by Government to permit an extension of jute cutlivation in the current year in proportion of 10 annas of 1939 cropped area instead of one-third as in the previous year.

I do not propose to speak on the motion as the object itself is explanatory, and we want to proceed on to voting.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Sir, the proportion of ten annas was fixed not by the present Government but by the previous Government. I think the House is aware that the late Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister had the pleasure of going to Delhi to attend a conference there. As a result of discussion in that conference it was decided by the then Government that ten annas of the cultivation of 1939 could be allowed. I feel and feel very strongly that in the situation as it stands now there cannot be any demand, not to speak of ten annas, or five annas, or four annas for the coming year. As I have already said, it was not done by the present Government, and I do not know how far the present Government can alter it, because without consulting the other provinces concerned and without calling another conference for the purpose the position cannot be changed. But I can say this much that Government will carefully consider the matter and if it lies within its power it will certainly change the percentage.

With these few words, Sir, I oppose the motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, as regards this cut motion may I point out to the House that although this decision of ten annas proportion of cultivation was taken by the previous Government it was done at a time when the circumstances were far different from what they are at the present moment. Since it has become necessary for us to reconsider the whole position now, we have taken up the matter and are going thoroughly into it. There are technicalities in the way which will take some time to get over, and in view of that I would request Dr. Sanyal to give us some time and not to carry this motion to a division. He may do it, if he still desires, at the time of voting on demands in the main Budget.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, in view of this assurance I do not want to press the motion to a division.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, the decision should be taken immediately because sowing has already begun.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 10,67,000 under the head "Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hashem Ali Khan that a sum of Rs. 10,67,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" during the current year, was then put and agreed to.

43—Industrices—Cinchona.

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 68,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" during the current year.

I may explain to the House that the whole of this Supplementary Grant is required under "Contingencies—Purchase of Stores, Implements, etc.—Voted". The increase is due firstly on account of building up a reserve stock of chemicals and other materials at the Government Quinine Factory at Mungpoo against the apprehended shortage of such materials on account of the war so that the running of the factory may be continued in the case of an actual emergency and secondly on account of the abnormal rise in the price of materials, tools and plants as a result of the war. Cinchona is a commodity of national importance and its supply is essential for public health of the community, both from the civil and the military points of view.

Sir, I commend this supplementary grant to the acceptance of the House with the short exposition of facts as stated above.

The motion was put and agreed to.

54—Famine.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 27,71,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year.

Sir, the Famine Budget contained the normal precautionary provision of two lakhs but owing to the widespread distress caused by flood, drought and cyclone in a large number of districts last year—and this was a year of tragedy for Bengal—this extra expenditure for which this supplementary demand has been made has been necessitated.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 27,71,000 under the head "54 Femine" be reduced by Rs. 100.

আমি অতি অল্প কথাতে বল্‌তে চাই যে যখন কেলেঘাই অঞ্চলে বন্যা হয়েছিল, তখন অতি অল্পই gratuitous relief দেওয়া হয়েছিল। অবশ্য সেটা অনেক দিনের কথা—আমি তা বর্ণ না করব না। বর্ত্তমানে যে জিনিষটার প্রয়োজন হয়েছে, সেটা এই যে সব জায়গাতে ১৩৪৬ সালে শুকো হয়েছিল এবং ১৩৪৭, ১৩৪৮ সালে বন্যা হয়েছিল, সেখানে যাতে করে agricultural loan আদায় না করা হয়, সেটা যদি মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয় দেখেন, তাহলে ভাল হয়। ঐ সঙ্গে আর একটা কথা বলে শেষ করব যে যখন কেলেঘায়ে বন্যা হয়, তখন মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয় একটা appeal বের করেছিলেন যেটা আমি মাননীয় রাজস্ব সচিবকে দিয়েছি, যাতে লোকে কিছু সাহায্য পায়। সে সময়ে বহু গ্রামে একেবারে ধান হয় নি। ১৩৪৭ সালের বন্যার বছরের খাজনা রেহাইর জন্য অনেক দরখাস্ত করা হয়। তাতে শস্যহানীর সম্পূর্ণ বিবরণ থাকে কিন্তু খাজনা রেহাই বিষয়ে কিছুই করা হয় নি।

আমি মাননীয় রাজস্ব সচিবকে অনুরোধ করি, তিনি এ বিষয়ে বিবেচনা করবেন। আমি এ বিষয়ে আর কিছু বল্‌তে চাই না।

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I would like to make some observations in connection with the cut motion moved by Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti. I agree with him that the money is wholly inadequate, but at the same time I would like to draw the attention of Government to some matter in connection with the very important question of test and gratuitous relief. The fact is that there is no committee in the district constituted for the purpose of selecting areas where gratuitous relief is required. It is generally left to the local officers who select localities to please certain members of local bodies and influential members of selected unions where there can be more or less political propaganda. I would submit to Government that there should be in every district a committee constituted for the purpose of selecting areas in which relief should be given. Most of the allotted amounts really infiltrates into the pockets of those who are not needy and whose pockets are not empty. I think, in the interest of the amelioration of the condition of the masses, Government should at once constitute a committee in each district which should be really representative in character and which should supervise the distribution of gratuitous relief.

There is another important matter to which I would draw the attention of Government. It is that due to the red-tapism in governmental departments relief actually does not reach the needy people in time, with the result that when the money does reach them death and disease already start taking their toll. I would therefore want that there should be expedition and Government should immediately send money wherever distress occurs.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, I shall first of all take up the two points raised by my honourable

friend Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali. The first is the question of the constitution of proper committees for the distribution of gratuitous relief. I understand, Sir, that gratuitous relief is distributed by the District Officials on the recommendation of the members of local relief committees, members of legislature and other influential people of the localities. Well, if my friend desires a regular machinery to be set up, I shall feel grateful if he will come to me and discuss the matter with me. That is with regard to the establishment of a regular machinery for the purpose of distribution of this gratuitous relief.

Then, with regard to the second point of red-tapism, my friend knows better than anybody else that red-tapism is one of the *sine qua non* of that type of Government with which we are so familiar in India, and if red-tapism has to go the white flag of truce will have to come. The point raised by my friend Mr. Mohammed Ali is a point which will receive my consideration. Beyond that I cannot say anything at this stage, because I find there were difficulties in Midnapore; but the expenditure caused on account of these annual calamities was an expenditure caused not by this Government—I am not repudiating the obligations of the past Government, but I shall look into the matter.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any objection to leave being granted?

(There was no objection.)

The motion of Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti that the demand of Rs. 27,71,000 under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee that a sum of Rs. 27,71,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

57—Miscellaneous.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, may I move the motions standing in the name of Dr. Mookerjee?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move that a sum of Rs. 1,87,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Loans and Advances by Provincial Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move that a sum of Rs. 99,17,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances by Provincial Governments" during the current year.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 99,17,000 under the head "Loans and Advances by Provincial Governments—Grant No. 36 (Supplementary)" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, in answer to a question put by my friend Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri it was said that a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs and odd was given as agricultural loan to the affected areas in the district of Tippera. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware of the fact that in my district, at least half of the district has been affected by flood. You probably know, Sir, that there are about 40 lakhs of people in our district; so about 20 lakhs of people are affected by the flood and I do not know whether you are aware of the fact that in these affected areas there was total destruction of crop -jute and paddy. There was 75 per cent. destruction of money crop, i.e., jute. So, the position of the 20 lakhs of people in the affected areas was very serious. I personally toured in the affected areas and found the distress very acute and I submitted a report to the Government of Bengal, to the District Magistrate of Tippera and to the Commissioner of the Division. The report not only contained the condition of the people in the affected areas but it contained some constructive suggestions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand the mechanism of the Government is that it is the Revenue Department which administers the distribution of funds and whatever money is required by the Revenue Department is *pro forma* given by the Finance Department, and therefore the question of inadequacy does not come under this department. Your question should have come under the Revenue Department. Any way I allowed you to move it but it is not in order.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Very well, Sir. I would only ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department to make a search for the file. My report contains not only the conditions of the people in the affected areas but it contains some constructive suggestions, and I will be very glad if the Hon'ble Minister makes a search for the file.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 99,17,000 under the head "Loans and Advances by Provincial Governments—Grant No. 36 (Supplementary)" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu that a sum of Rs. 99,17,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances by Provincial Governments" during the current year, was then put and agreed to.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Second Amendment) Bill, 1940, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Assembly and as passed with amendments by the Bengal Legislative Council.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Sir, I beg to move that the amendments made by the Bengal Legislative Council in the Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Second Amendment) Bill, 1940, be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The question that the Bengal Legislative Assembly agrees to the amendments made by the Bengal Legislative Council in the Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Second Amendment) Bill, 1940, was then put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: That finishes the business of the day.

We will meet tomorrow at 8-30 a.m. for non-official business and thereafter the House will stand adjourned till 9th Mrach.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 11-30 a.m. till 8-30 a.m. on Friday, the 27th February, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 27th February, 1942, at 8-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 200 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Internment and externment of Muslim League members by the District Magistrate of Noakhali.

*93. **Mr. ABDUL LATIF BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhury of Gunabati, district Tippera, was interned in his own village for 15 days commencing from the 16th January, 1942, under the India Defence Act by the District Magistrate; and

(*ii*) that Maulana Azizur Rahman Islamabadi was served with a notice of externment from the district of Tippera under the India Defence Act on the 17th January, 1942, at the Laksham railway station on his way to Comilla?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons of the internment and externment of Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhury and Maulana Azizur Rahman respectively?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME and PUBLICITY DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The reasons are given in the District Magistrate's orders, copies of which are placed on the Library Table.

Mr. ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the speeches were calculated to be prejudicial to the reception of the Hon'ble Minister and his colleagues?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: What is your question?

Mr. ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: It appears from the report that the speeches were prejudicial. My question is whether the speeches were calculated to be prejudicial by the District Magistrate to the reception of the Hon'ble Minister and his colleagues who were expected to be there.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know what are the speeches and I cannot answer that now.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the speeches were prejudicial to the public peace and tranquillity?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhury is a permanent Muslim Leaguer?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury is an Assistant Recruiting Officer for recruitment to war?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that they were interned with a view to prevent any anti-demonstration on the occasion of the visit of the Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is for the Magistrate to say.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhury was spreading communal bitterness and communal discontent?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these orders were passed immediately before the arrival of the Hon'ble Minister at Tippera?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Dates will show; I do not know.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is satisfied that the discretion vested in the Magistrate has been exercised properly?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have no reason to enquire into the matter.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he gave an indication to the District Magistrate for taking any action like this?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Most certainly not.

Restraint order on Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish.

***94. Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish has been ordered not to participate in or address any meeting in the district of Pabna for six months?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for such an order?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The reason is stated in the order of which a copy is placed on the Library Table.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that with a view to stifle public opinion against the Ministry and also with a view to put a stop to the Muslim League organisation this order was passed?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Most certainly not.

Posting of armed police outside the Feni College Hostel.

***95. Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether armed police were posted outside the hostel of the Feni College on the 18th January, 1942;

(*ii*) whether the Hon'ble Minister passed by the College Hostel on that day;

(*iii*) whether the armed police had their muzzles pointed towards the windows of the hostel while the Hon'ble Minister was passing by the hostel; and

(*iv*) whether the students were restrained from coming out of the hostel?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*), (*iii*) and (*iv*) No.

(*ii*) I passed by the Station Road which can be seen from a corner of the hostel.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Feni College students were coerced with a view to facilitate the visit of the Hon'ble Ministers?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not presume that is correct.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there was any demonstration against the Ministers by the students?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir, it arises. It has been said that the students were kept there and not allowed to come out of the hostel. That was the question and the Hon'ble Minister says "no".

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, you can put the question.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: The question is whether there was any demonstration by the students against the Ministers.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I read two letters against my colleagues, but there was none against me.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has learnt it from his colleagues that there was a demonstration by the students?

Mr. SPEAKER: Hearsay is no evidence.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, it is a question of knowledge and not of hearsay. The Hon'ble Minister is expected to know it, and so I am enquiring into the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I expected Mr. Fazlur Rahman to put the question in a different way.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any ordinary constable was posted in the college hostel?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not think so.

Immersion of images at Mymensingh.

*96. **Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that the immersion procession of the images of Durga took place at Mymensingh very recently; and

(*ii*) that it was done under the police guard and military force?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the said procession was permitted to pass with the music and images before a mosque in the town?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*ii*) No. But police arrangements were made to prevent the occurrence of any regrettable incident.

(*c*) This was done on a provisional agreement between the local Hindus and Muslims without prejudice to the terms of a permanent agreement which Government have in view.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that police arrangements were made to coerce the Muhammadans of Mymensingh?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I must intervene now. So far I have allowed you to put questions to the utmost limit possible, but how can you mention a fact which is not contained in the answer? What I am saying is this: you ascribe a certain motive. Now there may be thousands of motives possible, but you cannot ascertain that by putting each one of them and getting a denial. Please try to get a certain fact, on the basis of which you can draw your conclusion.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, it is admitted that armed police was there. Now the Hon'ble Minister says that this was done only to prevent any regrettable incident, but our contention is——

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not question your contention, but all that I say is that in order to prove that contention you must get certain fact.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I am trying to do that. With regard to question (*c*) the answer was: "This was done on a provisional agreement between the local Hindus and Muslims—," etc. I would therefore like to elicit this information as to whether it is a fact that the police arrangements were made only to coerce the Muslims.

Mr. SPEAKER: How does the question of coercion come in?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: From the very fact that the police was there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let that be asked first.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, he has already admitted that the police was there.

Mr. SPEAKER: And therefore you conclude that there was coercion?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, I want to know whether it is a fact that the police arrangement was made there in order to coerce the Muslims. That is my point, and that is why I have asked the question, and I would like the Hon'ble Minister to say whether the information is correct or not. I want to know definitely from him whether there was coercion or not; otherwise how am I to know whether there was coercion or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: If you discuss in my chamber I may help you how to do it.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if permission was given by the District Magistrate to pass the procession with music and images before a mosque in spite of the protests of the Muslim leaders of Mymensingh?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As I have already said in this House, no suggestion was given by Government. The District Magistrate acted on his own responsibility. I say, Sir, that in view

of the fact that there was a provisional agreement between the leaders of the two communities elaborate police arrangements were not, in my opinion, needed, but the District Magistrate took that course in exercise of his responsibilities for keeping the peace.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the terms of this provisional agreement, who were the parties to it, and their names?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: According to the report of the local officials, the agreement was made between the leaders of both communities. I have not got the names here. But if the question is pressed, I shall get information and give it to the honourable member.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he himself received any protest from the Muslim leaders of Mymensingh?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I received telegrams of protest on the 22nd on which date the immersion was to take place. That was about noon and as I have already stated in this House I got into touch with the District Magistrate over the telephone. He said that from the provisional agreement that had been arrived at between the local leaders he did not expect any trouble. That is all I can say at present and after that no protests were made to me.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any instruction waws issued by his Government to the District Magistrate to issue any order permitting the procession?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As a matter of fact troubles were apprehended at Mymensingh, Dinajpur and Malda. I sent for the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police of Dinajpur and both of them were here. As regards Mymensingh I talked to the District Magistrate over the telephone. As regards Malda instructions were given to the effect that if processions were allowed they must be allowed only with the consent of all the parties. The ffect was that although there was some settlement at Mymensingh none was arrived at Dinajpur and therefore the immersion has not yet taken place. That shows that the Government has not passed any discriminatory orders but orders generally that in these matters the Magistrates should be guided by agreement and if not they should act according to their discretion.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the fact that he had received telegrams of protest from the leaders of Mymensingh, whether he will enquire into the matter to find out if there was any agreement between the Hindu and Muslim leaders of Mymensingh?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have not yet received any written or oral statement of that kind, but immediately on hearing what had taken place I decided to go to Mymensingh and hold an enquiry. I still propose to do so. But as regards any protests, written or verbal, I have not received any. I would, however, be prepared to receive any representations in order to find out facts.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Has the Hon'ble Minister satisfied himself that the local Muslim League leaders were a party to the alleged agreement?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I do not know why I cannot ask that question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Because no question of Muslim League has arisen.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Is it necessary? I want to ask if the Muslim Legue leaders were or were not a party to the agreement. In the answer it is said that "this was done on a provisional agreement between the local Hindus and Muslim".

Mr. SPEAKER: It is difficult for me to explain at length, but I think you understand that questions cannot be assumed and replies cannot be assumed. Therefore in order to come to the conclusion that any compromise between Hindus and Muslims is not a compromise unless the Muslim League leaders are a party to the compromise, you must ask a question. I cannot supply you with one.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell this House whether the orders of the ex-Home Minister Sir Nazimuddin stopping the immersion procession at Mymensingh, Dinajpur and Malda were in contravention of the circular of 1927?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the telegrams of protest received from Mymensingh were from the Muslim League leaders?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: May I explain once for all? I promise to hold a personal enquiry to find out whether this agreement was real or not. The House can trust me that I will do my best. After that I shall be prepared to answer any question that may be put to me.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*b*) whether it is not permissible under any law or rules to take a procession before a mosque when prayers are not being held with music?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on *Bijoya Dasami* day objections were raised to only one procession while all other processions were granted licence and allowed to go with music before mosque when no prayer was held?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is so.

Prayer of security prisoners for release to help war effort.

***97. Babu JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether the Government have received any petition from some security prisoners expressing their willingness to help in the war measures, if released?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many security prisoners have sent such petitions; and

(*ii*) what action, if any, the Government have taken or do they propose to take on those petitions?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of laying on the Table a copy of each of the said petitions?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) and (*b*) (*i*) Three security prisoners have sent petitions urging the release of all "political" prisoners and affirming their belief that it is the duty of every freedom-loving people to support the Allies and their armies in this war of liberation.

(*ii*) Government are giving this matter their best consideration.

(*c*) No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when these petitions were received and how long the Department has taken to consider the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: There are several petitions. I cannot say that they are all being enquired into.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When were they received?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It would not be possible for me to say when I received them.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to look up the file and find out the information?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That point was not enquired into and did not arise. I will make an enquiry.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are the petitions now in the possession of the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: They are not before me.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the various suggestions and requests contained in the petitions?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is very difficult for me to say. May I ask for notice?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My submission to you is that it is exactly the point which Mr. Suhrawardy pointed out yesterday that the Hon'ble Ministers do not come prepared with answers even on important matters.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have come prepared.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as the question is concerned. All you are concerned with is whether there was willingness to help in the war measures.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I want to know whether he will consider the desirability of laying on the Table a copy of each of the petitions and the reply is "no".

Mr. SPEAKER: That is subject to the main point of willingness to help in the war effort.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is one of the many prayers in the petitions. We want to know whether he is in a position to contradict that. It is not for you to say——

Mr. SPEAKER: It is for me to say that the question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Which question? I am referring to the petition, and trying to elicit more facts.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am sorry there are certain petitions in the file before me. One petition is from security prisoner Sisir Roy. It does not bear any date but it shows that it was in January that it was noted in the Government department and the Secretary noted on it on the 4th of February.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*b*) (*ii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Government would be in a position to come to a final decision on these petitions?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The manner in which we have to deal with security prisoners is under consideration, and I would very much like not to be pressed to make any statement this week. We hope we will be able to make a statement very shortly.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government of Bengal would be in a position to co-ordinate the efforts for help in the war effort and themselves would be willing to encourage war efforts by permitting such residents of Bengal who would be prepared to help in the war effort and would be in a position to so extend their help?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With regard to answer (*c*) "No", may we know the reason for refusal to place the petitions on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As I see, they contain various matters like expressions of opinion and criticisms which, I am told, are not to be divulged in the public interest.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The various matters—what are those various matters?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: May I take upon myself the responsibility of showing these matters to my friend Dr. Sanyal personally. I am sorry, I cannot make them public.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you.

Publication of Government advertisements, etc., in the newspapers.

*98. **Mr. K. NOORUDDIN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Publicity Department be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing—

(a) the names of the newspapers where the Government advertisements are not published;

(b) the names of the newspapers where these are published;

(c) the circulation figures of the newspapers where Government advertisements are published; and

(d) the method of distribution of Government advertisements to the various newspapers?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Government advertisements are published in the following Calcutta newspapers:—

1.	Statesman	50,000
2.	Star of India	11,000
3.	Amrita Bazar Patrika	30,545
4.	Hindusthan Standard	25,000
5.	Advance	26,000
6.	Calcutta Exchange Gazette and Daily Advertiser	1,600
7.	Ananda Bazar Patrika	65,679
8.	Azad	19,000
9.	Navajuga	7,000
10.	Yugantar	32,388
11.	Bharat	18,000
12.	Asr-e-Jadid	2,000
13.	Viswamitra	20,000
14.	Lokmanya	1,000
15.	Rozana Hind	2,300

They are also published in a large number of mufassal newspapers but details are not readily available. The number of such newspapers in which such advertisements are not published is very large and

Government are not prepared to produce a catalogue of them. Particulars may however be obtained from the Director of Public Information.

In distributing advertisements, the nature of the advertisements and the class and community for which they are meant are considered, i.e., such papers are selected as are considered most suitable for particular advertisements.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the answer that "in distributing advertisements the nature of the advertisements and the class and community for which they are meant are considered", if he means to say that if a particular community is concerned, the paper which serves that community most gets such advertisements?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not paper. He says, "papers". In other words, if there is an advertisement of a Muslim vacancy naturally it goes to Muslim papers but not necessarily only to the Muslim papers.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, Sir.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to his answer where he says that the circulation of the "Azad" is 19,000 and that of the "Navayuga" is 7,000? I would like to know from him whether he considers that "Azad" is the most suitable paper for the purpose——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion; so the question does not arise.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that he does not follow the principle as enunciated here in ordering that no advertisement should be published in the "Azad"?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I know, Sir, he has enunciated a principle——

Mr. SPEAKER: Where is it that he has enunciated a principle? I find it is very difficult to explain to you, Mr. Rahman. You are assuming that a principle has been enunciated that advertisements will not be given to "Azad".

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I know how can you make that assumption? I have been telling you that only such questions should be asked which are based on facts and not on assumption. You cannot assume a thing and then make a further assumption in shaping your supplementary questions.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any order has been passed to the effect that no advertisement should be given to the "Azad"?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Most certainly not. I may add in this connection that these advertisements are distributed by the Director of Public Information and Ministers have got nothing to do with them.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the proprietor of the paper "Navayuga" is the Hon'ble Chief Minister himself?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many out of the 7,000 copies of "Navayuga", shown as the circulation figure, are distributed free and gratis?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has enquired whether any advertisement is given to the "Azad" or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, that question does not arise. I may further tell my friends of the Opposition and particularly Mr. Rahman, that I was permitting them a number of questions which I ought not to have done. For example, I have permitted a question as to whether an advertisement was issued in a particular paper although it was not relevant. I allowed it because I felt that I should give some latitude at this early stage of the new Opposition and that gradually I would be able to adjust things. But I am sorry to tell you that if you pursue in that strain and press the point further I must disallow such questions.

Mr. K. NOORUDDIN: Sir, may I submit to you that if we make a mistake like this you may correct us but I hope you will not debar the Opposition from properly functioning as such by means of interpellations addressed to the Hon'ble Ministers.

Mr. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, the point is as to how you can put supplementary questions. I have repeatedly explained this that it is for you to approach me for guidance and not for me to approach you. I am always prepared to help and guide you if you approach me. However, I did allow one question with reference to advertisements to "Azad" although that question is not relevant. But if you want to pursue that course indefinitely I cannot allow that. In that case I would ask you to give notice of a separate question.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: May I submit, Sir, that we would very much appreciate if you disallow any question which is not, in your opinion, relevant; but please do not deliver lectures on us saying how we have erred and how we should correct ourselves.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, if that is the desire of your group I will do so.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, if we put a supplementary question on an assumption which appears to you to be incorrect, you can disallow it. But we look up to you to give us all facilities to get everything we want to ascertain from the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: After what Mr. Shahabuddin has said, I have nothing more to add.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I submit, Sir, you have no right to deny us the privilege of eliciting what information we want to obtain from Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please do not misunderstand me. I have already said, it will take some time, now that you are in the Opposition, to adapt yourselves to your new role, and that therefore I am prepared to give you some latitude, and I would ask you not to pursue this matter which is the subject-matter of a separate question. If, however, Mr. Shahabuddin wants that I should not allow any question which is not relevant, I will do so.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, I shall show from the proceedings of the House that the Opposition of to-day is not being treated more leniently than what was done previously; rather the Opposition now is treated more harshly than heretofore.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, may I just point out to you that only a few minutes ago Mr. Fazlur Rahman addressed an appeal to you to help him with suggestions and guidance, but Mr. Shahabuddin has raised a quite different issue.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With regard to "Navayuga" will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the subscribers of that paper are paying subscribers?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As regards advertisements in newspapers we have been extremely liberal. There are papers to which we have not only sent advertisements but also money.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has not been answered. The question is as to whether there is any information to show how many of these 7,000 are paid subscribers.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I would ask the honourable member to go to the office and find out. I do not know.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Sir, that is no answer. He must answer.

(At this stage many members from the Muslim League benches stood up on their legs to speak and there was much interruption.)

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, is the Hon'ble Minister entitled to slight the House in the manner that he has done in this answer?

Mr. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, there was a last part of his answer which I have heard but which you did not hear. Immediately after that he said "I do not know". In that view, so far as I am concerned, I cannot press him any further.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: So far as "I do not know" is concerned, that is all right, but to say "Go to the Office and find out" is slighting the House.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: On a point of order, Sir——

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: On a point of order, Sir, I find that in the printed answer to this question, the Hon'ble Minister has stated——

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mr. SPEAKER: Both of you sit down, please. Mr. Rahman, Mr. Biswas rose on a point of order before you and so he must be given a chance first. After him, you may speak.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, I rise on a point of order——

(Mr. M. A. H. Ispahani was on his legs.)

Mr. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, I must say that Mr. Ispahani rose first of all. So he must have the chance first.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: Sir, my point of order was this. The Hon'ble Chief Minister cannot go on replying questions as he has been doing in the past and as he has attempted to do again to-day. Sir, we beseech your protection and it is only fair and proper that you should extend to us your protection. We cannot have irresponsible answers from a responsible member of the Government every time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have said all along that it is not for me to control the language but I certainly expect that answers should be answered in such a way as to keep up the dignity of the House. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Muslim League benches.)

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: On a point of order, Sir. The questioner asked Government about the circulation figures of newspapers where Government advertisements are published. The Hon'ble Minister has stated that "Navajuga" has got a circulation of 7,000. This fact has not been denied. The supplementary question is to the effect that how many of the subscribers are paid subscribers. Sir, I submit this is not relevant The questioner wanted the figure of circulation and Government have given the figure 7,000. It is absolutely irrelevant to ask whether the subscribers do pay or do not pay. The only relevant point is that 7,000 copies of "Navajuga" are circulated. So, I submit that the questioner is not in order to ask Government how many subscribers are paid or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am very glad that new knowledge is coming forth in this House in different sections and I feel that I have sometimes to find very great difficulty to know exactly what to do. I stand between the left and the right. I consider this question fully relevant for this reason that the whole purpose of this question is to ascertain whether Government advertisements are given in such papers which have got effective circulation. After all, one man may publish 1,000 copies and get two subscribers and send the rest free. It may be well-contended that is not the paper in which Government advertisements should be given. That is the trend of the question. It is essential to

find out the extent of effective circulation of the paper. Now, whether the information regarding effective circulation is with the Government or not, I cannot say. Government have said, they do not know and there is an end of that.

Mr. K. NOORUDDIN: With reference to item No. 9—"Navajuga"—will the Hon'ble Chief Minister kindly state what is the number of copies that are given free to the members of his party?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry that question does not arise.

BABU NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয় অনুগ্রহ কোরে কি বল্‌বেন যে গভর্ণমেণ্টের এমন কোন আইন প্রচলিত আছে কি না যে আইনের বলে যে কোন সংবাদপত্রের হিসাবনিকাশ দেখ্‌তে পারেন? হিসাবপত্র যদি দেখাতে আপত্তি করে তা'হলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আইনের বলে বাধ্য কর্‌তে পারেন কি না?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that question arise?

BABU NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: আমি সেই কথাই জিজ্ঞাসা কর্‌ছি এমন কোন আইন আছে কি না যার বলে সংবাদপত্রের হিসাবনিকাশ গভর্ণমেণ্ট দেখ্‌তে পারেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Chakrabarty, please do not misunderstand me. I have to allow relevant questions, but whether Government has the legal authority to get that information is for the Government to say. I cannot say that.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: সেই জন্যই আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করিতেছি যে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী-মহোদয় অনুগ্রহ করে বল্‌বেন কি যে গভর্ণমেণ্টের এমন কোন আইন প্রচলিত আছে কি না যাহার দ্বারা সংবাদপত্রের হিসাবপত্র দেখিতে পারেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the column showing the circulation figures, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the dates for the respective circulations or whether it is circulated on an average and will he be pleased to find out or state how such exact figures as 65,679 for "Ananda Bazar Patrika" and 32,388 for "Jugantar" could be worked out and for which particular date was this circulation figure arrived at?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It was worked out by the Director of Public Information. I am not in a position to say on what basis he made this calculation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these statements of circulation were mere reports obtained from the newspapers or any measure taken to check the statements supplied by the respective newspapers?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As I have said, the Director of Public Information must have satisfied himself before he furnished me with these figures. I suppose he satisfied himself.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the policy of Government to distribute newspaper advertisements strictly on the basis of their circulation or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, the main principle is that advertisements must be sent to papers in order to achieve the object for which advertisements are made. Necessarily, therefore, some advertisements go not only to special papers but also to other papers. The whole thing is in the discretion of the Director of Public Information.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how long the paper "Navajuga" had been in existence—since when?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Five or six months.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state since when advertisements are being given to this newspaper?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That I cannot say.

Mr. K. NOORUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Chief Minister is interested in the paper and is he the editor-in-chief?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a permissible question and if you want that information, please give notice of a fresh question.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Serving of notices on certain persons at Noakhali.

53. Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that notices have been served on Maulvi Abdul Hakim, Pleader, Lakshimpur, Maulvi Abdul Majid Choudhury, Government Pleader, Lakshimpur, and Maulvi Abdul Majid, a teacher, to show cause why criminal prosecutions (under the Defence of India Rules) should not be taken against them?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) They were called upon to show cause against prosecution under the ordinary law, not the Defence of India Rules.

(*b*) They were engaged in activities calculated to cause a breach of the peace which in fact they were successful in creating.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the activities in which these gentlemen were engaged that were calculated in the opinion of the Hon'ble Minister to cause a breach of the peace?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Circulating leaflets, making speeches, and other demonstrations are likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the date or dates on which these gentlemen were called upon to show cause against prosecution?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have not got the information.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the activities related to a date just before the visit of the Hon'ble Ministers?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Not just before but some time before.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what section of what law or Act the order was served?

Mr. SPEAKER: Defence of India Rules perhaps.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: No, Sir. Not under the Defence of India Rules but under the ordinary law. That is what he has said. May I know what he means by "ordinary law"?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Ordinary law means sections 153A, 147, Police Act and other Acts.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state specifically under what section of what Act the steps were taken?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: If details are wanted I ask for notice.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, that was the intention when the question was put and the House is entitled to have a definite reply from the Hon'ble Minister. He has given a statement that they were prosecuted under the ordinary law. I want to know under which particular law the prosecutions were made.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has already answered that if you want details, he asks for notice.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: That is an evasive reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot say that. The question has already been answered.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these orders of the District Magistrate had anything to do with the visit of the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Certainly not.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: With reference to answer (*b*), viz., that they were successful in creating a breach of the peace, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in what way and in what manner was there a breach of the peace?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am again pointing out that these are extremely minute details and if information is wanted, I must have notice.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there was any instruction from the Government, any direction from the Government to the Collector to pass these orders?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No.

Internment of certain persons in Tippera.

54. Mr. K. NOORUDDIN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that the Muslim League Secretary, of Gunabati (Tippera), has been interned in his village for 15 days and that he has been ordered not to leave his village, organise or join in any meeting or procession or demonstration directly or indirectly;

(*ii*) that Maulvi Qumurazzaman, M.SC., has been interned at Hajiganj (Tippera), for fifteen days; and

(*iii*) that Maulana Azizur Rahaman Islamabadi, a Muslim League Organiser, was served with an order when at Gunabati to leave immediately the district of Tippera for 8 days?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for such action?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) The name of the Muslim League Secretary of Gunabati is not known to me, but an order was served upon Maulvi Abdul Matin of that village imposing these restrictions.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) The reasons appear from the orders themselves of which copies are laid on the Library Table.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is a Muslim League organisation at Gunabati in the district of Tippera?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: The answer says "the name of the Muslim League Secretary of Gunabati is not known to me". This shows that the Hon'ble Minister knows that there is a Muslim League organisation.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: You can draw your inference. I do not know.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that the services of Maulana Abdul Aziz who is not a resident of Tippera were requisitioned only to create disturbances in the locality?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if all these orders referred to in the question were passed prior to the arrival of the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No, Sir. I have no reason to believe that.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether those orders had anything to do with the visit of the Hon'ble Minister?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have already asked that question.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I am sorry, Sir.

Issue of notice by the District Magistrate of Noakhali prohibiting demonstrations against the Hon'ble Ministers.

55. Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that before the arrival of the Ministers at Feni and Noakhali, the District Magistrate issued notices calling upon the public to welcome the Ministers, prohibiting the *hartals* and anti-demonstrations, and threatening people with punishment in case they would observe *hartal* and make anti-demonstration on the occasion of the visit of the Ministers to those places?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is contemplating taking any steps in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) A copy of the notice issued is laid on the Library Table.

(*b*) No.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that at first I asked this question in connection with question No. 53. This time I have asked the same question with reference to question No. 54 and not relating to question No. 53. So, I was right.

Mr. SPEAKER: Anyway, questions 53 and 54 have now been disposed of, and I have already called question No. 55.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is satisfied that the discretion vested in the District Magistrate was exercised properly?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have not looked at it at least from that point of view, but I promise to do so. It is a very important and relevant question.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of enquiring into the matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has already said "yes".

Short-notice question.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Sir, I have given notice of a short-notice question regarding evacuation from Chittagong.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have not got any timely information. In these matters I would ask you to try to give information in proper time.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, it relates to a very urgent matter in which everyone of us is interested. I think I shall be justified in requesting the Hon'ble Minister to overlook certain technicalities of the procedure and look into the matter. It relates to a very large number of people who have become homeless on account of certain orders of evacuation in the suburbs of Chittagong, and because there will be no sitting for 9 or 10 days after to-day, it is necessary that we should draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to this matter, so that certain steps might be taken to alleviate the distress of the affected people.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have understood it very well and I do not think any explanation is necessary. I have repeatedly said that in such urgent matters I will try to help you in every possible way, if only I know it in proper time. It is only about half an hour before that I have come to know about it. The point raised by Mr. Shahabuddin is that there will be no sitting for 8 or 9 days and the question cannot be answered. Mr. Shahabuddin knows it very well that as soon as we receive a question, we send it to the department concerned for action.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You do not send the short-notice questions so quickly. Your Department is hopelessly inefficient——

Mr. SPEAKER: I know, Dr. Sanyal, you are in the habit of drawing most hasty conclusions. You have always interfered in these matters without knowing the real facts. I only want to say this that a short-notice question does not necessarily mean that it must immediately be answered. It can only be immediately taken up if any special representation is made, or my personal attention or the attention of somebody else is drawn to the fact that this is a very urgent matter. Otherwise short-notice means that the usual period of notice is shortened and usual steps should be taken. Moreover, I have told Dr. Sanyal repeatedly who has conveniently forgotten it that we are absolutely short of hands.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is that a fact, Sir? Then we are prepared to enquire into it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, we are absolutely short of hands.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit, Sir, that we do not know how to bring this urgent matter to your notice. When this matter was brought to the notice of the Minister concerned, the honourable member wanted to move an adjournment motion. I advised him that in a matter like this where there is no possibility of difference of opinion between Government and ourselves, let us put in a short-notice question and obtain certain facts and the Hon'ble Minister also agreed to obtain facts as soon as possible. As a result thereof, we find that the member submitted a short-notice question. You yourself admitted that till about half an hour before this moment, it was not communicated to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid Dr. Sanyal is always unreasonable in his attitude. I said that so far as Dr. Sanyal's question was concerned, it was sent to Government about 7 or 8 days ago and we

have not yet received any information from them. So far as this matter is concerned, it is not the duty of the office to bring the matter to my notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If it was not brought to your notice, it was not our fault.

Mr. SPEAKER: I refuse to discuss the matter further.

Adjournment Motion regarding home internee Maulvi Sultan Ahmed of Feni.

Mr. Syed ABDUL MAJID: Sir, may I have your leave to move the adjournment motion of which I have given notice and to which you have given your consent?

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you definite on every one of the points mentioned here?

Mr. Syed ABDUL MAJID: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it only in connection with *jumma* prayer?

Mr. Syed ABDUL MAJID: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: In other words he is permitted to go to the mosque to say his other prayers?

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot understand this.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: If a person cannot go to a mosque to offer his *jumma* prayer, it obviously follows that he is forbidden from going to the mosque.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then, it means that he is not permitted to go to the mosque at all.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not brought out in the motion.

Mr. Syed ABDUL MAJID: He may not make that a grievance because other prayers can be said in his own house. What he cannot do in his own house is the *jumma* prayer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us see what Government have got to say.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know anything about it. I have not seen it.

Mr. SPEAKER: It was sent to your Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Department says that it has not received it. The efficiency of the Assembly Department has hopelessly gone down.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please confine your remarks to the relevant matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: This is a matter which concerns your Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not prepared to have a discussion on that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am prepared to substantiate it.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not possible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We shall be doing it.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I say that in view of these allegations it is very difficult for me to carry on. I cannot allow this kind of discussion in the House. I am absolutely in need of staff and I make it clear to the House that if I am not given proper staff before 9th, I may be forced to adjourn the House *sine die*.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is what they want.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have just seen the motion. I must have time to get a report from the District Magistrate. At present, I cannot say anything. I do not object to it provided I get sufficient time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The convention is that if Government say that they have not yet had time to get information, the matter stands over till the Government is in a position to do so. Therefore this matter stands over.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the observations made by you, I want to hand over to you two cases out of many showing negligence on the part of your Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not going to hear anything regarding this matter. You may put in a relevant motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is in connection with non-official Bills. I have got the Deputy Speaker's consent.

Applications for leave of absence.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us finish the applications for leave of absence.

Under rule 7(*2*) of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, I call upon Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea and Mr. Mia Abdul Hafiz to move their motions.

Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Mr. Jatindra Nath Basu representing Calcutta North (General) Constituency, to be absent for the period from the 28th July, 1941, till the end of the present session for which he finds that he is unable to attend meetings of the Assembly.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Mr. MIA ABDUL HAFIZ: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Maulvi Abul Quasem, M.L.A., representing Hooghly District excluding Municipal Areas (Muhammadan) Constituency, to be absent for the period from the 23rd April, 1941, to the end of the present session for which he finds that he is unable to attend meetings of the Assembly.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Point or Order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. Rule 74(*1*) of the Assembly Procedure Rules lays down the procedure by which Bills originating in the Council and passed by the Council and sent to the Assembly may be taken up. It says: "Any member on behalf of the Government in the case of a Government Bill or in any other case any member, after giving ten days' notice or with the consent of the Speaker, at shorter notice, may move that the Bill be taken into consideration". In accordance with that, Sir, I had submitted a motion with the consent of the Deputy Speaker who was functioning at that time as the Speaker and it related to an enabling Bill, a short Bill, which was passed by the Council regarding the power of Government to abolish local boards even without the consent of the district boards. Accordingly when Mr. Hashemy was in the chair, I got his consent and handed over this notice, but I find that the Secretary has manipulated to put it off.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, let us behave at least in a manner which would avoid motives.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am afraid I cannot help it. I have spoken to the Secretary about it. It is not a mistake just passed over. I spoke to the Secretary and to the Deputy Speaker and with the latter's consent I handed over the notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far perfectly normal, but why do you say that he has manipulated?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I spoke to the Secretary and also drew his attention to the urgency of the matter. I stated in my letter itself that in view of the urgency of the motion, short notice might be accepted. The Deputy Speaker gave his consent.

My second point of order is this. I have received a letter which states "I am desired to inform you that the notice has been rejected by the Hon'ble Speaker". All that the Hon'ble Speaker can say is that the notice could not be held valid for one day. For the next non-official Bills day, the notice must stand and it cannot possibly be rejected altogether.

Sir, the department in this respect has been functioning in a hopelessly high-handed manner and I want to know——

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish I could save others from the hopeless position they were in but all I say is, please understand what is the position of the Bill. So far as this Bill is concerned, under the rules all non-official bills have to be balloted together and therefore any Bill notice of which comes after the ballot is over cannot be accepted because the ballot has been finished.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But the Bill can take its chance at the next ballot or even after the ballotted Bills are disposed of.

Mr. SPEAKER: Under the rules we have framed, no matter whether they are good or bad, all notices of Bills must come by the first day and all Bills must be ballotted on the first day.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is nothing in the rule, Sir, to that effect. If there is a prolonged session it will mean that many Bills will be shut out altogether because they did not come up before the first day. This is another position that I would ask you to consider. The interpretation which is being sought to be given by you, Sir, on the advice of your office is one which we never followed in this House. We want the period of notice to be calculated from the day on

which it comes in to the date when actual consideration of a motion is taken up, and not up to the first day of the session. It has been always so, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: In any case I shall look into the matter personally but what I would point out to you is this that you contend that even after a ballot is taken, a new ballot can be taken with regard to Bills that come up later on. I will look into that matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, Sir; but I submit again that that does not apply to Bills which pass through the Council. There are special rules to that effect and we have a convention that Bills which are at a more mature stage must be taken up first and if there are a number of such Bills, the ballot will be amongst such Bills only.

Mr. SPEAKER: In any case this Bill cannot come in now.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It can come in immediately after the Council Bills are disposed of. The ballot takes place within the group to which a particular class of Bills belong.

Mr. SPEAKER: No. The ballot has been finished. In any case it is within my discretion. After the balloted Bills are finished you can, Dr. Sanyal, raise your point.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the Deputy Speaker was functioning for you at that time and he gave his consent.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I am now helpless.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then am I to take it that the Deputy Speaker when he was functioning had no authority given to him. If that was so, it was a very unfortunate position that the Deputy Speaker would neither get any allowance nor would have any authority given to him. We should not put up any Deputy Speaker to be treated in that perfunctory way.

Then, Sir, there is another matter to which I should like to refer. I find that Mr. Amrita Lal Mandal gave notice of a question without indicating the name of the particular Minister to be addressed to. In the letter addressed to your office he said that he had drafted his question in the following way, namely, "Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the relevant department.....", etc., and he marked the word "relevant" and asked your office to insert the name of the particular department in the body of the question. But that question was sent

back to him. Previously, we all along had this courtesy from the office that when a particular member had any doubt about a particular department or Minister to be addressed to, the office used to insert the name of the particular department concerned instead of what your office is now doing. If your office is short of hands, certainly it would not be a quicker procedure to send back such a question to the member himself when it would be coming back again causing unnecessary delay. This, I submit, has nothing to do with your office being short of hands.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is entirely wrong.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is wrong, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Your statement.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: On a point of order, Sir. I tried to draw your attention some time ago to a very serious matter which cast a reflection on the Chair but failed to do so. May I now draw your attention to——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry it was passed over by me and I do not wish to revive it now.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Now, Sir, let me understand my position.

Mr. SPEAKER: The procedure that you are attempting to follow is entirely wrong. The procedure we have been following for the last two years is quite a different one, and the same procedure is being followed all through.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If a member puts in a question and has any doubt as to which department it may relate to, will not your office help him?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not prepared to answer that question at this stage.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I submit, I have yet another point of order. Under the rules members have got to submit certain notices at certain hours and we know that during those hours or immediately before that the Secretary should be present in his office to receive the notices thereof and that the main doors should be kept open to enable members to come in.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point or order.

(At this stage Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal again rose to his feet to say something.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. You cannot obstruct the proceedings of the House by raising a point of order which is not a point of order at all. As I have stated I will personally look into this question and in view of the present disturbed atmosphere of the House I would ask you to wait. I am in the mean time trying to see as to how best we can settle these matters.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: On a point of order, Sir. You have had the pleasure to tell us that if in your absence the Deputy Speaker does something, that is not binding on you. I submit, Sir, it is question of privilege to be dealt with by the Privilege Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: No.

NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS' BILLS.

The Bengal Public Demands Recovery (Amendment) Bill, 1941, by Mr. NUR AHMED, M.L.C., as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Public Demands Recovery (Amendment) Bill, 1941, as passed by the Council, be continued under the proviso to rule 19(2) of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: I beg also to move that the Bengal Public Demands Recovery (Amendment) Bill, 1941, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection I am thankful to my friend, Mr. Nur Ahmed, M.L.C., for the honour he has done me by giving me an opportunity of moving this Bill in this House. This is a Bill which has been passed by the Council and has been placed before this House. There are some important points in this Billl. It has been said that on furnishing sufficient security for attachment of the property of the judgment-debtor, the attachment by the certificate officer of the property shall be cancelled from the date on which such security is accepted by the certificate officer. In section 4 it is stated that no

order of arrest or detention in the civil prison of such a judgment-debtor in execution of the certificate shall be made unless an opportunity of showing cause has been given to the judgment-debtor. Then if the Certificate Officer becomes satisfied that the judgment-debtor is likely to abscond or has dishonestly transferred or concealed or removed any part of his moveable property or if the judgment-debtor has the means of paying the amount for which this certificate was issued and he refuses or neglects to pay the same amount, then and then only the Certificate Officer can order for arrest or detention of the judgment-debtor in civil prison.

The other amendments are only of some formal nature. In section 4 an insertion has been made after the words "as the court may allow not exceeding 6¼ per cent. per annum". That is with respect to interest and it was not mentioned in the original Bill, and the remaining sections dealing with sections 6, 7, 8 and others are of a formal nature. I think, Sir, this is an important matter and should be passed by the Assembly.

With these words, Sir, I beg to commend this motion to the House for acceptance.

The motion of Mr. Mirza Abdul Hafiz that the Bengal Public Demands Recovery (Amendment) Bill, 1941, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

The question that clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 stand part of the Bill was then put and agred to.

The question that the Preamble stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Sir, I beg leave to move that the Bengal Public Demands Recovery (Amendment) Bill, 1941, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Bengal Land Revenue Sales (Amendment) Bill, 1940, by Mr. Nur Ahmed, M.L.C., as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is an identical Bill with one sponsored by Mr. Abdul Majid and which has been passed, and as such the motion is not proper at this stage. Having passed one Bill we cannot continue passing another Bill till the question of his Bill is settled. This Bill will, therefore, stand over but we will follow it up in case His Excellency does not give his consent to the other Bill.

The Calcutta Tenancy Bill, 1941.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that the Calcutta Tenancy Bill, 1941, be continued under the proviso to rule 19(*2*) of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that the said Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

(1) The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department,
(2) Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal,
(3) Babu Narendra Narayan Chakravarti,
(4) Mr. Sibnath Banerjee,
(5) Mr. Pramatha Ranjan Thakur,
(6) Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas,
(7) Mrs. Hasina Murshed, M.B.E.,
(8) Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar,
(9) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed Muhammad Afzal.
(10) Mr. Satyapriya Banerjee,
(11) Mr. A. M. A. Zaman,
(12) Mr. Charu Chandra Roy,
(13) Mr. Syed Mustagawsal Haque,
(14) Mr. G. Morgan, C.I.E.,
(15) Maharaja Sashi Kanta Acharyya Choudhury, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh,
(16) Mr. Amrita Lal Mandal, and
(17) Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose (the mover),

with instructions to submit their report by June 30, 1942, the number of members forming the quorum being five.

Sir, it is known to you all that the Bill was circulated to elicit public opinion thereon. Several notable institutions, namely, the Bengal Landlords' Association, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Merchants' Association, the European Association of Calcutta Branch, who are interested in the matter, have expressed their opinions in various ways. I would like to deal with the matter one by one if time permits. First of all, let me discuss the opinion of the Bengal Landholders' Association. Though I do not agree with their opinion and outlook I have got some satisfaction to note that the Association has, to some extent, agreed to my proposal. My main contention was

not to eject a tenant with a short notice of 15 days or one month. And I propose in chapter 3(2) of the Bill that where a tenant has taken lease of a house or land or portion of a house or land for business purposes and carries on business therein, he shall not be liable to ejectment except by two years' notice in ordinary circumstances and by three years' notice if he has been in occupancy for more than eight years.

The Landholders' Association propose to give six months' notice instead of two years and they suggest one year's notice instead of three years. Here may I draw the attention of the House through you and assert that I have got my point supported by an important association, I mean the Landholders' Association, whose interests are diametrically opposed to those of the tenants, whose cause I espouse. Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether it is a notice of six months or one year or two is a question of detail to be discussed in the Select Committee. I have much pleasure to note that the Association have accepted the principle of not ejecting a tenant with a short notice of 15 days or one month. So far about the Landholders' Association.

Now, Sir, let me deal with the opinions expressed by the European Association and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. Both the Associations, so far as I have been able to understand, want to know the opinion of the committee which was appointed on the 1st August 1938, by the Government of Bengal to investigate into the rights of the tenants of non-agricultural lands in the province and to make recommendation as to what can be done to protect the tenants from eviction at the will of the landlords.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find nothing objectionable about the proposal. The report of the Non-agricultural Land Enquiry Committee has been published for a considerable period of time and we all know what their recommendations are. The Government got the report about six months back. If the European Association, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Government of Bengal agree to support the elementary recommendations of the said Committee, they ought to support my Bill. It is not possible to discuss each and every item of recommendation of the said Committee. But it can be frankly and emphatically said that the Committee upholds all provisions of my Bill.

In discussing the Calcutta Tenancy Bill, 1941, let me be very frank to speak out in a very clear-cut language that this is a Bill meant for the middle class people of Bengal. If the Bengal Tenancy Act, with its various amendments has been able to establish the rights of the tenants of Bengal, it will be no exaggeration to say that the Calcutta Tenancy Bill if accepted by the House will go a long way to remove the long-felt grievances of the middle class people of Bengal.

Before I enter into the details let me point out a few facts which have been deliberately misinterpreted by the vested interests of Calcutta. Who are tenants of Calcutta? Is it not a fact that many

people whose hearths and homes are in different districts of Bengal come to Calcutta and live here as tenants? In a word, the mufassil people of Bengal hailing from different districts settle down here in Calcutta as tenants. Out of the 21 lakhs of population in Calcutta, it will be no exaggeration to say that 18 lakhs or more have not got houses of their own in Calcutta and they live here as tenants. Taking advantage of this situation the landlords of Calcutta enhance rents at their sweet will and eject the tenants who may be unwilling or unable to pay the enhanced rents. The present law which goes against all sense of decency and justice, which has got no parallel of its own in any part of the world, provides the landlord with the power to eject a tenant by giving only fifteen days' notice without showing any reason whatsoever. However old a tenant may be, however regular the payment may be, the landlord has the unquestionable right to eject a tenant without assigning any cause whatever. Thus the Calcutta tenants live absolutely at the mercy of the fastidious landlords.

Let it be clear again that when I am speaking of the landlords of Calcutta I do not mean those gentlemen who have got only one house for their residential purpose and who may set apart a portion thereof for a residential tenant. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the oppressions and tyrannies that are going on in this city of Calcutta and that the middle class Bengalee youths are subject to.

Honest, able and highly educated youths of Bengal after having knocked at various doors for the sake of an employment, when they do not find any other avenue whatever, they come to Calcutta with a small capital varying from Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000 maximum to start some business in order to eke out an existence. The moment they come to the mercantile area, to their utter surprise they find that the rent of the business premises is abnormally high and since they have no choice of their own in the matter they enter into a contract with the landlord and settle down there. Let me here quote a few lines from the report of the Non-agricultural Land Enquiry Committee: "It is true, as already pointed out, that the tenants enter into these contracts with their eyes open, but in many cases the proverb 'beggars can't be choosers', seems to apply, and it will have to be considered whether, and if so, how tenants should be prevented from entering into contracts which are and may in certain events turn out to be inequitable. In this connection it should be remembered that land is a class of commodity of which the ownership has somehow passed into the hands of a limited number of people though its use is essential for every living soul. There has thus arisen a monopoly condition in the matter of distribution of this very important commodity, essential for the existence of the people in general, and the so-called freedom of contract is largely illusory."

What has been said about the non-agricultural tenants outside Calcutta is equally true about and is equally applicable to the tenants of Calcutta. Tenancy legislation in Calcutta is not a new incident. During the last war the then Government of Bengal brought forward the Calcutta Rent Act to protect the tenants from the oppressions of landlords. They appointed a Controller of Rent, fixed up standard rent and prevented ejectment of tenants without sufficient cause. In those days the Calcutta landlords could not enhance rents under threat of ejectment as they actually do nowadays. The landlords of Calcutta had not then the right to exact huge amount from the tenants by way of *selami*. But today I have got to narrate a different tale. Today the landlords are enhancing rents by leaps and bounds under the threat of ejectment and businessmen who have established their business and goodwill in one place find it extremely difficult to shift and are compelled to pay the enhanced rent, threatened as they happen to be with ejectment in case of their disagreeing to pay. Until either the Calcutta Rent Act is re-enacted or a fresh legislation is made to protect the tenants from the unquenchable avarice of the landlords, the tenants are absolutely at the mercy of the landlords. Now, what will be our attitude? Should we leave the tenants at the mercy of the landlords to be drifted away to some unknown shore where they find themselves entangled and embarrassed in such a way that their business comes to a stand-still? Incidents of this nature are occurring from day to day and in these hard days it is now long overdue that the Government ought to come forward with a piece of legislation or accept this Bill with necessary amendments. Have we ever heard of any legislation in any part of this world that empowers a landlord to eject a tenant by giving only fifteen days' notice although the tenant has been paying rents regularly without any default whatsoever? This sort of "Zemindari" attitude is an exception in Calcutta alone.

You will be surprised to learn that the Calcutta landlords not only enhance the rent under threat of ejectment, they exact huge amount of *salami* from time to time. A few months back in connection with my question with regard to the condition of the Calcutta tenants, one Assistant Secretary of the Local Self-Government Department requested me to furnish him with some bona fide cases who have been subjected to oppression by the landlords. I accompanied him to several shops. He recorded the enhancement of rent and the way *salami* was exacted. Sir, I can quote instances. I can mention the names of many parties, but I think this is not the proper place where I can dwell upon all these things at great length. The instances are innumerable. There are prominent merchants who are being subjected to such oppression but simply out of fear of ejectment these tenants do not venture to speak out the grievance. If the Government today order,

to stop ejectment temporarily for five years and invites the records of *salami* and other oppression, I can assure you that a large number of cases will be recorded.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to some facts. The people of Calcutta think that ejectment has become a normal procedure and the landlords have been, had been and will be entitled to eject a tenant at their sweet will by giving only 15 days' notice. Sir, in this very Province in the year 1920 the Government passed the Calcutta Rent Act, 1920. Here is a copy with me. I will read a few provisions of the Calcutta Rent Act, 1920, which will dispel the idea of the landlords that they were in a position to eject a tenant at their sweet will. At page 7 of the Calcutta Rent Act, 1920, clause 15, there was provision for a Controller who was empowered to fix up the rent that the tenant should give and the landlord should submit to the decision of that Controller, but today there is no such office, there is no such officer, to whom the tenant can represent his case to decide whether the rent is abnormally high or not. Sir, I would also like to draw your attention to page 5, clause 9 of the Calcutta Rent Act, which reads thus: "It shall not be lawful for any person in consideration of the grant, renewal, or continuance of a tenancy of any premises, to require the payment of any fine, premium, or any other like sum in addition to the rent." Here comes the question of *salami*. Today the landlords of Calcutta are exacting *salami* from the tenants and that *salami* amounts to several lakhs of rupees. These several lakhs of rupees are being exacted from the tenants of Calcutta.

Sir, I shall read further: "where any such payment has been made after the date of the commencement of this Act, the amount shall be recoverable by the tenant by whom it was made from the landlord, and may, without prejudice to any other method of recovery, be deducted from any rent payable by him to the landlord". Sir, there was provision to recover that amount of *salami* from the landlord. The legislation was such.

Sir, I would further like to draw your attention to clause 11 where the provision was like this:—

> "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, 1882, or the Indian Contract Act, 1872, no order or decree for the recovery of possession of any premises shall be made so long as the tenant pays rent to the full extent allowable by this Act and performs the conditions of the tenancy."

Now, Sir, look at the difference. In the year 1920, if the tenants paid rents regularly the landlords could not eject them but today in

the name of Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the landlord is in a position to eject his tenant by giving 15 days' notice although the tenant may have been paying his rent regularly. Here I would like to draw your attention to clause 19 (*1*) of the same Act which reads thus:—

"19(*1*). Whoever knowingly receives, whether directly or indirectly, on account of the rent of any premises any sum in excess of the standard rent or any fine, premium, or any other like sum in addition to the standard rent, except as provided in section 10, shall, on the complaint of the party aggrieved, be liable, on the first occasion, to a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, and on a second or subsequent occasion, in regard to the same, or any other premises, to a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, to be imposed, after summary inquiry, by the President of the Tribunal, or the principal Civil Court, as the case may be."

Sir, we can thus see in clear broad daylight that for any *salami* which the landlords have exacted from the tenant they would be liable to pay, in the first instance, Rs. 500 as fine and on subsequent occasions Rs. 1,000 as fine. These were the provisions made in 1920 by the then Government but what do we see to-day? The landlords are exacting *salamis* from business people and these business people do not venture to give publicity to these *salamis* because of the fear that they will be ejected by their landlords after giving 15 days' notice. In all fairness and justice, I would request the House to take necessary steps to do the needful in the matter.

Sir, if the Government of Bengal in the year 1920 could give such legislation to the people, are we to think, that the popular Government, are we to think that the Progressive Assembly Party, are we to think that the Congress Party today will be lagging behind to give protection to the tenants? Sir, it is a legitimate claim of the tenants of Calcutta and it is overdue. I hope that the Government will rise to the occasion and control the landlords of Calcutta, those who are exploiting the tenants of Calcutta for so many years and those who have accumulated lakhs of rupees by way of *salami* and this sort of *zoolum*. I hope that the House will consider the whole situation.

I would like further to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the previous Ministry also accepted this principle and introduced a Bill, I mean, the Bengal Non-agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1941. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons of that Bill they said:

"Government have considered the Report of the Non-agricultural Land Enquiry Committee and are of the opinion that notwithstanding

the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the non-agricultural tenants who hold lands under a lease for residential, business, manufacturing or other purposes are in need of better security. It is obvious, however, that the degree of protection cannot be the same for all classes of tenants and it has been considered necessary to make a distinction between tenancies."

Sir, the Government have accepted this principle. Simply because of that pre-historic Act, I mean the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the tenants numbering 18 or 20 lakhs of people in Calcutta cannot be left at the mercy of a few landlords and be subjected to abnormal tyranny of various landlords. Now that the principle has been accepted and I understand that the Government is considering the matter, I would like to draw the attention of the public outside through you that the situation has changed with the formation of the new Ministry. With a Congressman in charge of the Judicial portfolio and with the approval of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, the leader of the Projas, now the tenants of Calcutta will have a new life and a new ideology. The tenants of Calcutta numbering 20 lakhs of people and even Bengal as a whole, the people of the mofussil who come to Calcutta and settle down from time to time will be able to understand that the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq by accepting the provisions of the Calcutta Tenancy Bill is espousing the cause of the tenants. He will thus prove that he stands for the ideology that the Congress stands for and the Hon'ble Mr. P. N. Banerjee by supporting this Bill will prove that he stands for the best interest of the tenants of Calcutta—Hindus and Muhammadans alike. We have got to give proof to the people that the Ministry has come for a change, a change for a better state of things, and change for the people, a change for the tenants and a change for the labourers. I would like to see that the Hon'ble Minister will go further during the next session and consider the position of the poor people in Calcutta, the people who cannot live in palatial buildings, people who cannot build structures of their own and people who are subjected to innumerable difficulties, people living in Bustees, whose latrines, hearths and homes are dirty and unclean must be protected without any distinction whatsoever. We, the Congress members here and the members of the Progressive Coalition Assembly Party will give proof that we stand for the people, that we stand for the tenants, that we stand for Hindus, Muslims and Christians alike. Let the people realise that we stand for the rights of the poor, for the rights of the oppressed regardless of the feelings of the zemindars and proprietors of Calcutta. Landlords are enjoying the fruits still now and I hope they will come forward of their own accord to the help of these tenants. I would like to appeal to them to come with a broad outlook in the year 1942 with good grace if they want to live, if they want to exist and if they want to identify themselves with the people in general.

With these observations I commend my motion to the acceptance of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this Department. Sir, before I resume my seat, I would like to say a word to the European group. "You are no better than tenants of Calcutta. Very few of you have got your own houses. For your own mercantile buildings and for your residential buildings you are paying high rent which the landlords are exacting from you. If you support this Bill your rent will not be enhanced. You are as much interested in this Bill as the poor people of Calcutta. It may be that you live in good and palatial buildings and not in lanes and bye-lanes, but the question of rent is probably the same to you. You have got to pay a rent which is not justified. The Calcutta landlords purchased the lands 50 years back or 60 years back at 50 rupees per cottah and today they are selling at Rs. 5,000 per cottah. There were places in Clive Street of Calcutta where jackals were howling. In that very Clive Street one cottah of land is now being sold at Rs. 50,000. You are paying abnormal rents to these landlords—whoever they may be, Hindus, Muslims, Jews or Christians. These landlords taking advantage of the lands purchased 50 years back are exacting abnormal rents from you. You should not submit to that. You should not give this sort of indulgence. You should see to your own interest that the rents come down, that the rents are not abnormal and that the rents are fair and just." There should be a fair and equitable adjustment of rent. In this city they are enjoying an unearned increment because 50 years back some grandfathers purchased lands at Rs. 50 per cottah and the grandsons are getting Rs. 50,000 per cottah.

It is abominable: it is detestable. If those grandsons have got any sense in them, if they have got any humanity in them, if they have got any sense of justice in them, I am sure they will rise up to the occasion and support me. I do not say that the landlord should be deprived of his rent: far from that. Vested interests of Calcutta have given publicity that Mr Atul Krishna Ghose is trying to deprive the landlords of their due rents: it is untrue; it is unfair. What I am trying to do is to come to an equitable, just and fair settlement just to give some relief to the tenants of Calcutta as a whole, composed of 18 lakhs of people, exactions from whom have made the pockets of a few rich landlords unduly heavy. I would be very very grateful if the Maharaja of Mymensingh, the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan and the Maharaja of Cossimbazar would give their support to this Bill. That will be a sure proof that they realise the hard lot of the tenants. Have you ever heard of ejecting a tenant by giving him only 15 days' notice? The tenant was paying his rent regularly for the last twenty years, but still the landlord came and asked him, "Will you give me Rs. 50 more per month?" The tenant was served with a notice to vacate the house and there was nothing to protect the poor tenant from being evicted. He may be paying his rent regularly and still he can be

ejected. The poor tenant who had in the course of the last ten years spent a lot of money for his establishment can be evicted by one notice of ejectment of the landlord. The tenant proposed to pay Rs. 20 more per month, but the landlord in question was not prepared to take a copper less than Rs. 50. Just to save his business, prestige, his honour and his credit the tenant ultimately agreed to pay Rs. 50 more per month. Such is the *zulum*, Sir, of some landlords in Calcutta. I can cite hundreds of such instances. And from such oppression there is no provision to save the poor tenant of Calcutta. Sir, I am thankful to the then Secretary of the Local Self-Government Department, Mr. Nurannabi Chaudhuri, who helped me by deputing his Assistant Secretary to enquire into such cases. If I remember aright, Mr. Basanta Kumar Banerjee is his name and I took him to several shops and he took notes of statements made by the owners of those shops——

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I rise on a point of order, Sir. I ask for your ruling on the point as to whether the honourable member can discuss these details which do not come under the purview of general provisions. Besides that, Sir, he is guilty also of repetitions.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I am grateful to my most esteemed friend, Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta, who has raised this point of order with a view, I think, to bring me back to the order which he is now representing. The order of tenancy legislation and the order of the outlook of Mr. Datta are altogether different today and that is why he is raising a point of order, that is why he is interrupting me. He wants that I shall follow his order, but, Sir, the old order is changing yielding place to new and I may tell my friend, Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta, that he is sitting by the side of a section of people who want to come to the front line today with their help when the motion is going to be accepted by Government. So, he can understand that the old order has changed yielding place to new and, as such, my remarks are going to upset him. Had it been the previous order I would have submitted to his point of order, Sir, but that order has changed and the whole situation is going to be changed and I will ask him to wait for a couple of months more, when, new order, new state of affairs will evolve——

Mr. SPEAKER: You ask us to wait for a couple of months more; so, you will find it and you need not worry about it.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member has all the while been addressing the members on this side of the House direct. He was not addressing the Chair. Is he entitled to do so?

Mr. SPEAKER: Please address me, Mr. Ghose.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Thank you, Sir.

This second point of order has come in its natural course and let me proceed with my speech in my own order, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Go on: go on: buck up!

Mr. SPEAKER: May I ask you, Dr. Sanyal, to behave properly in the House? You must not shout in that fashion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But other people were also shouting.

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish, Dr. Sanyal, you understood the difference between other people's shouting, "Go on" and your shouting, "Go on".

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: The tenants of Calcutta are not necessarily the permanent residents of Calcutta. People from the mofussil from time to time come to Calcutta for the purpose of business, for temporary residential purposes and also for various other purposes. So, this Bill is a Bill in which all the people of Bengal are interested and, as such, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the point that every mofussil member of this House should give his support to this Bill.

With these few words, Sir, I move that the Bill be referred to the Select Committee, as suggested already.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the very convincing speech of my esteemed friend, Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose, combined with the most violent freaks to convince the honourable members of the most atrocious conduct of the landlords of Calcutta, we are so thoroughly convinced that we expect the Hon'ble Minister concerned not to shelve it or shove it off to a future date. Our experience of such Select Committee is rather unfortunate. Whenever Select Committees are accepted for private Bills they are sought to be shelved. That has been the fate of the Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill: that has been the fate of the Widows' Home Bill. I would very respectfully request Mr. Ghose and his friends on that side of the House to press Government, of which they seem to think they are the masters, glorious masters, who can make the Government move as they like, to proceed with the adoption of the Bill immediately and without any further delay.

Sir, I am one of those who would not brook delay when matters require immediate attention. Sir, my friend Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose

has painted the house-owners of Calcutta black. There are some dark-complexioned owners—and I am one of the humble owners who lives in his own house—and there are some fair-complexioned owners also of different sexes. There are owners, Sir, who cannot even realise the rent because the tenants have got a very good habit of leaving the house after the owner of the house has the temerity to demand rent, even though the rent has not been paid for one year or more. The poor owner is most atrocious in his demand because he goes and begs the tenant to leave the house so that he may not incur any further loss—it is an atrocious conduct in a moment like this, when houses can be commandeered by Mr. B. R. Sen's department, that any owner of the house should expect any rent at all.

Sir, I most sincerely believe that my friend should now press the motion for consideration and not conceive the idea of referring it back to Select Committee. But there is one difficulty. Sir, I had occasion to glance through the provisions of the Bill as drafted by my esteemed friend. I have great respect for his forensic abilities but, Sir, whether the drafting of the Bill has been within the four corners of legal knowledge, my friends, particularly the Hon'ble Minister who had been the Principal of the Law College, will be in a position to judge. Sir, the object of the Bill is glorious, but when such glorious objects are sponsored by certain enthusiasts and when such glorious objects inspire members to deliver such speeches, it is only fair for members to seek advice or guidance of some person or persons who might be helpful in drafting Bills properly.

Sir, with these words I ask the member concerned to go on and proceed with the consideration of the Bill clause by clause, so that we can on the floor of the House know how very wonderfully the Bill has been drafted and the Hon'ble Minister in charge may be in a position to justify every clause that is there and honourable members will have the pleasure of passing this through with the majority on their side.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Sir, I do not want to take more than a minute of your most valuable time. I would like just to draw the attention of my esteemed friend Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose to a few points that he was pleased to discuss.

Sir, my friend appears to arrogate to himself and his party the monopoly of sympathy for the tenants of Calcutta. I rise to give my support to my friend, but, Sir, I found in his speech that more than half of the speech dealt with the difficulties of the merchants of Calcutta as against the landlords. It is not for that that I give my support. I support him because I feel that poorer people are in difficulty and it is the sympathy for them for which I give him my support. As to the merchant classes I feel that they are as much capitalists and exploiters

as the landlords are. Therefore, I would rather prefer to leave that thing to be decided by the two classes of exploiters—landlords and merchants.

Sir, in the course of his speech he said that there would be no difficulty in getting this Bill through as his party has got Congress Ministers in the Cabinet. But, Sir, unfortunately I do not find any Congressmen in the Cabinet. I find Congressmen on my right here, if Official Congress is the real Congress in the country. (Mr. P. BANERJI: They are rebels.) But so far as we are concerned, we do not find any Congressmen in the Cabinet, far less as Minister of the Revenue Department.

Again, Sir, referring to the previous Government, my friend was pleased to state that there has been a change of order and new things will happen, but in course of his speech he himself admitted that the previous Government accepted the principle underlying this Bill, and therefore I do not understand what was the implication of his referring to the new order that he claims to introduce in this country.

Sir, with these words I conclude my speech and give my support to my friend over there for the redress of grievances of the poorer section of the tenants of Calcutta and not exactly for the merchants as against zemindars.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I support the motion that has been ably moved by my friend Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose. But I raised the point of order so that the other motions may come in. I have got sympathy for the poorer people of Calcutta. I have got sympathy for the poorer tenants of the mofassal. I am afraid, Sir, that if this motion be prolonged on which there can be no difference of opinion, the other motions will not come in which deal with the conditions of the poorer tenants of the province. With that object in view I raised the point of order, but I have full sympathy with its objects. I like to support the motion.

Mr. J. W. CHIPPENDALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I proceed now to say that I rise to support this bill wholeheartedly it is not because I have got any grievance against the merchant class or the landlords. It is the poor and the middle classes that are suffering greatly at the hands of the landlords. We do not grudge to pay rent; it is reasonable to pay rent. When a man has spent money in putting up a house he is entitled to expect a return for the capital which he expended, but what we do not like and what we grumble at is that he is not entitled to more than a reasonable rent. He cannot go on increasing that rent year after year almost to a breaking point and squeezing out the means and the life and energy of the tenant.

Sir, the people who suffer greatly in this matter in the town of Calcutta are Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans who are exploited

by these landlords. They know that they have to conform to a certain mode of living and because of this they are exploited to a very great extent. It is this, Sir, that we do not want and which we want to put an end to. There was a time when the Rent Act afforded some relief but that Rent Act has ceased to exist and now under the law we find that only 15 days' time is given to the tenant to vacate and remove his property. In the olden days notice of a calendar month was essential for the ejectment of a tenant in Calcutta. But now a new decision of the High Court has made the notice period 15 clear days ending with the month. This, Sir, is a very great hardship and it is but right and equitable that the people of Calcutta should be relieved from this great burden and distress. It is not right that the Act of 1882, which provided for other conditions and catered for a different set of circumstances in Calcutta, should be permitted to continue and that we should now in the year 1942 submit to a law which existed so long ago and which does not work reasonably and equitably in these days.

Therefore, Sir, I have much pleasure in supporting this Bill and I would ask the Government kindly to consider this matter earnestly and to give some relief to the middle class inhabitants of Calcutta.

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, we are in favour of rent control in Calcutta in the present emergency and therefore we do not oppose the principle of the Bill which has now been put forward. We do, however, consider that its terms require very careful consideration and that the best way we think of dealing with this matter would be to apply the rent control to Calcutta in the same way as it is done in Darjeeling and other places.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about rent supplementing? Houses are going very cheap in Calcutta now. I can offer one to you. Will you have it? (Laughter.)

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Mr. Ghose on his sponsoring a Bill like this, particularly on his success in inducing Government to accept the principle of this Bill. But his hopes, Sir, may ultimately prove to be illusory, because, as has already been pointed out, the Bill is drafted in a manner which will be found to be extremely unsatisfactory when it is considered in the Select Committee stage and I am almost certain that Government will come forward later on with a plea that this Bill is not acceptable and they will take time to introduce another Bill. From this point of view, I think it would have been a more straightforward course for Government to come forward with a Bill of their own. However this does not mean that we do not support this Bill. I accord my wholehearted support to the principle of the Bill.

I would like to draw the attention of the ministerial party and the Government to one small thing. In proposing names for the Select Committee, the Opposition has been very shabbily treated. So far as our party is concerned, only one name from our party has been suggested. (Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: But you form a very small group.) This was not the practice previously. Of course, it may be said that we have not tabled any amendments, but, Sir, amendments have no chance of being carried unless they are accepted by the ministerial party. As this Bill is going to be accepted by Government, I think that it was the business of Government to draw the attention of the member-in-charge to this matter or themselves to table a motion so that the different sections of the House might be equitably represented on the Select Committee. I do not know why my friends are raising objection to a proposal like this. In a Bill which is acceptable to the House in general, unless all sections of the House are represented——

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA CHOSE: I had been to Mr. Shahabuddin and requested him to give me the names of his party members. So, you cannot say that we did not approach you.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, my friend knows the names of members of all sections of the House, but the names are not there. What I want to draw the attention of the House to is that in future I hope that Government and the ministerial party will have a better sense of responsibility, so far as this matter is concerned.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়। আজকের এই বিল সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ কোরে আমার অপোজিশন বেঞ্চের বন্ধুগণ বড় মুস্কিলে পড়েছেন। অপোজিশন বেঞ্চের ডাইনের এবং বাঁয়ের তাঁরাও ওতপ্রোতভাবে এই বিলটা oppose ক'রতে পারচেন না অথচ difficultyতে পড়েছেন খুব, কেননা তাঁদের যেটা কর্ত্তব্য সে কর্ত্তব্য তাঁরা করেননি। এখন নূতন গভর্ণমেণ্ট আসায়, নূতন Ministry formed হওয়ায় তা ক'রতে চাইচেন বোলে না oppose, না support কোন দিকে কিছু ক'রতে পারচেন না। আমি বুঝতে পারচিনা বিশেষ কোরে তথাকথিত লীগ বন্ধুগণ যে ওঁরা কংগ্রেসের নামে ফতোয়া বার কোরে——

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: On a point of order, Sir. My friend over there Mr. Zaman has said " তথাকথিত লীগ বন্ধুগণ ". Is he aware that our party is duly authorised? Is he entitled to cast such reflection on our party? He has no right to say that and he should withdraw the expression.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have contradicted him. So, the matter ends there.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: আমি আর একটু স্মরণ করিয়ে দিতে চাই যে যখন এই Ministry formationএর আগে মৌলানা আজাদের নামে ফতোয়া বার করেছিলেন—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: আমি এখানে শুধু একটু স্মরণ কোরিয়ে দিতে চাই যে এই যে opposition side দুটো বেঞ্চে ওঁরা বসে রয়েছেন ওঁরা যেন ভাল ভাবে জেনে শুনে অগ্রসর হন, এটুকু আমি এখানে বল্‌চি।

দ্বিতীয় কথা, এই বিলের support ক'রতে গিয়ে বল্‌তে চাই যে এই বিল খুব দরকারী সময়ে এসেছে এবং আশা করি সমস্ত group থেকে, সমস্ত party থেকে এই বিলকে support কর্‌বেন। আজকে জমিদারের অত্যাচারে কলিকাতায় যে সব ঠিকা প্রজা রয়েছে যারা মাস মাস বৎসর বৎসর খাজনা দিয়ে যাচ্ছে, বাড়ী ঘর তুলে মনে ক'র্‌চে আমরা বেশ বাস কর্‌চি হঠাৎ একদিন ভোর বেলা দে খ্‌ল নোটিশ এসেছে 24 hours বা 3 daysএর মধ্যে সমস্ত বাড়ী ঘর ছেড়ে চলে যেতে হবে। এটা বড়ই অত্যাচার এবং এর জন্য গরীব বিশেষ কোরে মুসলমান সম্প্রদায় আজকে কলিকাতার বাহিরে গিয়ে গৌখানার দিকে, ৪নং ব্রিজের পাশে স্থান নিচ্ছে। সেখানেও তারা স্থান পাচ্ছে না। এই বিলের খুবই দরকার আছে এবং এটা বহু পূর্ব্বে আসেনি কেন? আমি প্রথমেই বলেছি ওঁরা সত্যকার কাজ করবার জন্য চেষ্টা করেননি। আমি আবার আপনাদেব অনুরোধ কোরে বল্‌চি—আমি মাত্র ২ মিনিট সময় পেয়েছি আপনাবা এই বিল oppose কর্‌বেন না, কোরে বদ্‌নামের ভাগ নেবেন না, যা এ কয় বৎসর কোরেছেন। কলিকাতায় এই আইন হ'লে directly বা indirectly ঘুরিয়ে বলেছেন আইনেব দিক দিয়ে অনেক ফ্যাসাদ হবে। ঘোরান আমরা বুঝি; Legislatureএ আমরাও আছি, জানি। সেইজন্য বিশেষ কোরে সান্যাল মহাশয়কে বল্‌চি যে তিনি যেন মনে না কবেন যে তিনি ছাড়া Legislator নাই। তাঁকে বল্‌চি he is not our master এবং সে সম্বন্ধে একটা কথা যে ঐ সান্যালের চেয়ে বহু সান্যাল এখানে রয়েছে, যাবা ভোটে এসেছেন, যাঁরা nominationএ আসেন নি। আমি তাঁকে further request, করচি যে কিছু বল্‌তে হবে বোলে গোলমাল ক'র্‌বেন না। এ রকম ভাবে না কোরে এ রকম ভাবে opposition দেবাব চেষ্টা না কোরে ভদ্র ভাবে যে কথা বলার আছে সেটা যেন বল্‌তে চেষ্টা করেন।"

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I am grateful that my friend Mr. Zaman has advised me to learn to speak in a gentlemanlike fashion. I shall follow and emulate his manners.

Mr. SPEAKER: In any case I am very happy to hear it. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Mr. Gladstone at the second general election in England was beaten by Mr. Disraeli, some humorist said that his party had been drowned by gin and beer. Well, in this Assembly, the majority of the members are prohibitionists. But this morning the Revenue Minister of the Government has been drowned on the one hand by the torrential eloquence of the learned mover of the motion and on the other hand by the pugilistic political activities of my honourable friend Dr. Sanyal. Mr. Zaman is very wrong. Dr. Sanyal is not a master. He is a doctor. Various points of view have been raised with reference to the question of the Bill which has been moved by honourable friend Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose. This Government does not deny the credit due to the past Government as the allegation has been made that the principle of this Bill was accepted by the past Government.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: It was not. How could it be?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I can follow the short speech of my honourable friend Mr. Walker. The rent control order, it is true, relates to the whole province of Bengal including Calcutta, but the question which the honourable mover of this Bill seeks to raise this morning is not the question of rent control but the question of regulation of what he calls the arbitrary methods adopted by landlords in the matter of ejectment of tenants particularly those tenants from business premises who have been in long occupation of those premises and have carried on their avocations of life. Whether or not it is possible to issue executive orders under the Defence of India Rules for a temporary purposes is a question to which I have not yet applied my mind. Sir, the objects and reasons of the Bill have been set forth in the Hon'ble Mr. Ghose's statement of Objects and Reasons.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He is not yet honourable though not dishonourable.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Every member of this House is not dishonourable excepting I suppose the Ministers.

In the statement of Objects and Reasons it is said: "It has been a long felt grievance of the tenants of Calcutta that their rent is increased and they are ejected at the sweet will of the landlord. Whenever a tenant does not agree to pay the increased rent, he is served with a notice to quit. Middle class business tenants, who have started some business and have established some goodwill there, are being put to heavy loss by the arbitrary action of the landlord". This statement of Objects and Reasons was printed and circulated at the time when abnormal days were not yet in view.

Sir, my honourable friend Dr. Sanyal has referred to the bad drafting of the Bill. My honourable friend Mr. Ghose is not a lawyer and if there is defective draftsmanship, the defects can be remedied in the Select Committee with the sage guidance of the members of the Committee and with the active assistance of the draftsmen of the Department of the Government of Bengal.

Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Tamizuddin Khan referred to the constitution of the Select Committee. This is a private member's Bill and after a good deal of persuasion the Government is accepting the proposal to refer the Bill to the Select Committee and if it does not appeal to my honourable friend the mover of the Bill to have that amount of representation from the Opposition which he should desire to have, that is a matter, constitutionally speaking, entirely in his discretion. But so far as Government is concerned, I can assure my honourable friend Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that this Government realises full well the weight which the Parliamentary Opposition must have in the matter of legislation. I do not forget, Sir, for one single moment although my friend—I will not say Master—Dr. Sanyal (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am your pupil and not Master) one day accused me of delivering a homily when I stated that His Majesty's Opposition is part of the Government of the day and is entitled to be treated with deep respect by the Council of Ministers.

Sir, my friend, the Muslim member from Burdwan has referred to certain party considerations. Over a matter like this I do not suppose that mutual recriminations or party considerations will help us very much. After all there are certain measures where party considerations need not necessarily have the predominant and the pre-eminent place.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, on behalf of Government do not move the amendment of which I gave notice. I can follow the zeal and enthusiasm of my honourable friend, Dr. Sanyal, to proceed with the Bill clause by clause here and now. But my honourable friend Mr. Ghose has referred to Tennyson: "The old order changeth, yielding place to new"——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You have yielded place to him.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: And the next line is: "And God fulfils Himself in many ways lest one good custom corrupt the world". I shall remind Dr. Sanyal in the words of the same poet that raw haste is half sister to delay.

The motion of Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose that the Calcutta Tenancy Bill, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

(1) The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department.

(2) Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal,

(3) Babu Narendra Narayan Chakravarti,

(4) Mr. Sibnath Banerjee,

(5) Mr. Pramatha Ranjan Thakur,

(6) Mr. Abdul Latif Biswas,

(7) Mrs. Hasina Murshed, M.B.E.,

(8) Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar,

(9) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed Muhammad Afzal,

(10) Mr. Satyapriya Banerjee,

(11) Mr. A. M. A. Zaman,

(12) Mr. Charu Chandra Roy,

(13) Mr. Syed Mustagawsal Haque,

(14) Mr. G. Morgan, C.I.E.,

(15) Maharaja Sashi Kanta Acharyya Choudhury, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh,

(16) Mr. Amrita Lal Mandal, and

(17) Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose (the mover),

with instructions to submit their report by June 30, 1942, the number of members forming the quorum being five was then put and agreed to.

The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1940.

Mr. MAQBUL HOSSAIN: I beg to move that the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1940, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

(1) The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department,

(2) Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar,

(3) Mr. Asimuddin Ahmed,

(4) Mr. Md. Abul Fazl,

(5) Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta,

(6) Maulvi Idris Ahmed Mia,

(7) Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea, M.B.E.,

(8) Mr. G. Morgan, C.I.E.,

(9) Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta,
(10) Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal,
(11) Mr. Satya Priya Banerjee,
(12) Mr. Monomohan Das,
(13) Maulvi Md. Israil, and
(14) Mr. Maqbul Hossain (the mover),

with instructions to submit their report by June 30, 1942, the number of members forming the quorum being five.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়! বঙ্গীয় প্রজাস্বত্ব বিল পুরানো প্রতিক্রিয়াশীল জাতীয়তা বিরোধী মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে উত্থাপন করিয়া উহা Select Committeeতে দেওয়ার প্রস্তাব করিলে তদানীন্তন অর্থসচিব বিলটী জনমত সংগ্রহ করার জন্য দেওয়ার প্রস্তাব করেন। তাঁহার প্রস্তাবে দীর্ঘকাল পর্য্যন্ত উহা পরিষদে উত্থাপন করার সুযোগ হয় নাই। জাতীয়তাবাদী জনপ্রিয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠিত হওয়ার পর দেশের জনসাধারণ এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট হইতে অনেক কিছু আশা করিতেছে। তাহারা চায় তাহাদের খাজনার হার হ্রাস করা হউক, তাহারা চায় নীলামী সম্পত্তি যাহাতে ফেরৎ পায়, এবং তাহারা আরও চায় দেনা বা খাজনার পরিমিত দাবীর অতিরিক্ত মূল্যের জমি যাহাতে নীলাম না হয়। এই সমস্ত বিষয় এবং আরও কতকগুলি উপকারের ধারা উপধারা লইয়া এই বিলখানা প্রণয়ন করা হইয়াছে।

আমি আশা করি মাননীয় জনপ্রিয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয় এই বিলটী Select Committeeতে দেওয়ার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিবেন এবং বাংলার জনসাধারণের বিশেষ করিয়া প্রজাসাধারণের চিত্ত জয় করিবেন।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I support the motion moved by my friend Mr. Maqbul Hossain. In this connection I would like to refer to the honourable member the point that there should not be any distinction between the Calcutta tenants and the tenants in mofussil, and specially the fact that the provisions in this Bill are in line with the provisions of the Moneylenders Act—at least some of them. I would also request the honourable member to bear in mind that the amendment of section 23 of the Bengal Tenancy Act is specially essential. In the mofussil it has been found that even if a tenant makes an improvement of his agricultural land by raising its level and also by erecting a permanent structure on the land, the landlord has the power to issue a notice of ejection and has on occasions actually served such notices. So the amendment of this section is essential, and I do not see any reason why any distinction should be made between Calcutta tenants and mofussil tenants.

With these few words, Sir, I support the motion moved by my friend.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move an amendment to the original motion that the Bill be recirculated for the purpose of eliciting further opinion thereon by the 30th of June, 1942, if you allow me to move the amendment.

The Bill provides mainly for four objects—first, the repeal of the existing provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act for an enhancement of rent and occupancy *raiyati* holdings; secondly, the Bill seeks to reduce the rent of each occupancy to a level of 50 per cent. less than the rent payable for that holding on the 31st of December, 1900; thirdly, the Bill proposes a further reduction of interest on arrears of rent; fourthly, the Bill seeks to abolish the provisions for awarding damage by courts for arrears of rent. And as a necessary and natural corollary to these propositions the Bill seeks to make a subdivision of tenancies and distribution of rent in respect thereof binding upon the landlord by certain prescribed notices accompanied by a mutation fee of Re. 1 only. As an ameliorative measure of tenancy legislation the Bill undoubtedly is ambitious. But the reason why I am moving an amendment on behalf of the Government for the re-circulation of the Bill is threefold. Sir, first, the Floud Commission Report is under enquiry by the Government. Secondly, there is a Rent Enquiry Committee which was appointed in 1938 and which has made a large survey of all the questions before the House but has not yet submitted its report. It is perfectly true that in this country as well as in all other countries which are blessed with a parliamentary form of government committees and comissions are prime-ordeal methods of delay. In this case the Committee was appointed in 1938, and in 1942 by all possible calculations the Committee might finish its report. The third reason is still more cogent. Naturally all the Indian members of the Legislature are adequately interested in the welfare of the tenantry and they want to regulate and adjust the relationship between the landlord and the tenant, and, therefore, Sir, on the Order Paper of to-day I have at least 10 Bills relating to the relationship between the landlord and the tenant. I have made an enquiry on which I have found that many more Bills and amendments are yet hidden in the crevices of that bureaucratic palace known as Writers' Buildings. Now, Sir, if these Bills are to be referred to Select Committee they will cut across one another. Therefore, what I propose to do is this: we shall have a conference of all the movers of these different pieces of tenancy legislation, and if we can arrive at a sort of general agreement, then the Government must undertake the responsibility of bringing forward comprehensive ameliorative legislation. (Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: By way of shelving it?) My honourable friend Mr. Rahman is putting a hypothetical question. Is there anything definite and certain in this world, especially at this time when we have been moving and passing through such uncertain conditions?

Sir, on all these grounds we do not propose to kill the initiative or the desire of my friend to improve the condition of the tenant, but I am suggesting a particular course of procedure and for the execution of that course of procedure I am moving this particular amendment.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee that the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1940, be re-circulated for the purpose of eliciting further opinion thereon by the 30th of June, 1942, was then put and agreed to.

The Bengal Restoration of Landlords' Auction Purchased Lands Bill, 1940.

Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM (Mymensingh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Restoration of Landlords' Auction Purchased Lands Bill, 1940, be continued under the proviso to rule 19 (2) of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM: Sir, I beg also to move that the said Bengal Restoration of Landlords' Auction Purchased Lands Bill, 1940, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

(1) The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department,
(2) Mr. Monmohan Das,
(3) Mr. Pramatha Ranjan Thakur,
(4) Babu Kshetra Nath Singha,
(5) Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah,
(6) Maulvi Rajibuddin Tarafdar,
(7) Maulvi Idris Ahmed Mia,
(8) Maulvi Muhammad Israil,
(9) Maulvi Abdur Razzak,
(10) Mr. G. P. MacPherson,
(11) Mr. Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), and
(12) Maulvi Abdul Hakim (the mover),

with instructions to submit their report by the 30th June, 1942, the number of members forming the quorum being five.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you taken the consent of Dr. Sanyal?

Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is not correct, Sir, that I consented to serve on the Select Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Hakim, how can you say that you have got the consent of Dr. Sanyal? Have you got a written consent?

Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM: I am sorry I made a mistake. Dr. Sanyal has not given his consent.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is not correct that I refused to give my consent. The point was, I wanted to see what the Bill was like before I gave my consent for I cannot give my signature to a blank paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you taken the consent of all other members?

Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM: I could not get the consent of Dr. Sanyal, Mr. Jatindra Nath Basu, Mr. G. Morgan, and Mr. Ahmed Hosain. I have suggested the name of Mr. MacPherson in place of Mr. Morgan, and the former's consent I have already taken.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়! এই বিলের সম্বন্ধে আমি আগেও কিছু বলেছি, আজও কয়েকটি কথা বল্‌তে চাই।

Mr. SPEAKER : আগে যতটা বোলেছেন ততটা বোলবেন না।

MAULVI ABDUL HAKIM : আজ আমি remind করবার জন্যই কয়েকটা কথা বল্‌তে চাই। এই বিলের প্রধান উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে যে ১৯৩০ সাল থেকে কয়েক বৎসর ভয়ানক একটা দুর্দ্দিন পড়েছিল। সেই দুর্দ্দিনের সময় বাকী খাজনায় বহু জমি নীলাম হয়ে গিয়েছিল এবং সেই সকল নীলামী জমি ফেরত দেবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোন আইন করেননি। সেই সময় প্রজার বহু জমি নীলাম হয়ে যায় এবং তাদের দুর্দ্দশা ভাষায় বর্ণনা করা কঠিন। অবশ্য Agricultural Debtors Actএর Amendment Bill দ্বারা একটা ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে এই যে ১৯৩৫ সনের ১২ আগষ্টের পরের নীলামী জমিগুলি সাবেক প্রজারা ফেরত পাবে, যদি তারা ডিক্রির টাকা কিস্তিবন্দিতে দিতে পারে। এটা উভয় হাউসে পাশ হয়ে গেছে। কিন্তু একটু ভাল কোরে চিন্তা করলে দেখা যায় যে এই Agricultural Debtors Actএর মধ্যে যে ধারা ব'সেছে তার দ্বারা প্রজার বেশী উপকার হবে না। ১৯৩০-৩১—১৯৩২-৩৩ এই ৪ বছরের বাকী খাজনাতেই খুব বেশী জমি নীলাম হয়ে গেছে এবং ঐ ধারার মধ্যে এই সকল নীলামী জমি ফেরত দেবার কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয়নি। আমরা দেখ্‌চি যদি ঐ ধারাটী আইনে পরিণত হয় তাহলে চাষীখাতক আইনের Second Amendment দ্বারা সমস্ত নীলামী জমির মধ্যে এক আনা আধ আনা জমি মাত্র সাবেক প্রজারা ফেরত পাবে,

আর ঐ বিলে দুর্দ্দিনের সময়কার নীলামী জমি ফেরত দেবার কোন ব্যবস্থা হয়নি। কাজেই আমি ঐ কয়েক বৎসরের নীলামী জমি ফেরত দেবার জন্য এই বিল উপস্থিত করেছি।

আমি আর একটী কথা জানিয়ে দিতে চাই যে এই নীলামী জমি ফিরিয়ে দেবার জন্য বিহারে আইন করা হয়েছে ইতিপর্ব্বেই। কংগ্রেসী মিনিষ্টারেরা আইন কোরে নীলামী জমি ফেরত দেবার ব্যবস্থা করেছিলেন, এবং সেটা কি ভাবে তাহারা করেছিলেন সেটা শুন্‌লে আপনারা আশ্চর্য্য হবেন। আমার বিশ্বাস নূতন মিনিষ্টার যাঁরা আছেন তাঁরা সেই Bihar Actএর মর্ম্মটা হয়ত অবগত নন। ঐ ঘোর দুর্দ্দিনে বিহারে প্রজাদের বিরুদ্ধে বাকী খাজনার মোকদ্দমায় যে টাকা ডিক্রী হয়েছিল তার অর্দ্ধেক টাকা মাপ দিবার পর বাকী অর্দ্ধেক টাকা ৫ বছরের কিস্তীবন্দীতে যদি সাবেক প্রজারা দিতে পারে তাহলে সাবেক প্রজারা সেই জমি ফেরত পাবে। এই হলো বিহারের ঐ আইনটীর আসল কথা। তার মধ্যে আর একটা ধারা এই বলিয়া বসান হয়েছিল, যে তারিখে এই বিল উপস্থিত করা হ'ল সেই তারিখের পরে যদি জমিদারেরা চালাকী করে সাবেক প্রজার পরিবর্ত্তে অন্য প্রজাকে জমি পত্তন দিয়ে ফেলে তাহলে সেই পত্তন অবৈধ ব'লে গণ্য হবে। এটাও বিহারের ঐ আইনটীর মধ্যে একটা বড় উপকারী কথা। ঐ বিল দাখিল হবার পরে ৬।৭ মাস লেগে গেল পাশ করবার জন্য। সেই সময়ের মধ্যে ঐ নীলামী জমি জমিদারেরা অন্য প্রজার নিকট হস্তান্তর করতে পারে নি, সেই চালাকী বন্ধ কোরে দেওয়া হয়েছিল ঐ ব্যবস্থা কোরে। আমি আমার এই যে বিল উপস্থিত করেছি তা সেই বিহারের আইনের অনুকরণে; তার মধ্যে বিশেষ কোন বেশ কম নাই। আমি একটা ধারা মাত্র এর মধ্যে যোগ করেছি। সেটা হচ্চে এই যে যদি প্রজারা পূর্ব্বোক্ত ডিক্রির অর্দ্ধেক টাকা না দিতে পারে তাহলে ঐ টাকার পরিবর্ত্তে কিছু জমি হয়ত জমিদারকে প্রজারা দিয়ে দেবে, আর বাকী জমি সাবেক প্রজা ফেরত পাবে। আমি এই একটী মাত্র ধারা যোগ করেছি নইলে আমার মুসাবিদাটী বিহার আইনের সই মুহরী নকল বল্‌লেও অত্যুক্তি হয় না। কাজেই বিহারের কংগ্রেস মিনিষ্টারেরা যে আইন করেছেন সে আইন এ প্রদেশে হ'তে কোন বাধা আছে ব'লে আমি মনে করি না বিশেষতঃ এখানকার মিনিষ্টারদের মধ্যে এখন কংগ্রেসী লোকও আছেন। এবং আমাদের অনারেবল রেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টার কংগ্রেসের একজন মস্ত বড় লীডার। কাজেই আমি আশা করি এই আইনের প্রস্তাবটা গ্রহণ কোরে কংগ্রেসের ইজ্জত তিনি রক্ষা করবেন এবং প্রগ্রেসিভ কোয়ালিশন পার্টি আমরা যা কোরেছি সেই পার্টির সুনামও যেন তিনি রক্ষা করেন এই আইনের দ্বারা। আমি আগেও আমার বিলটী উপস্থিত কোরেছিলাম সাবেক মন্ত্রীসভার (Cabinet) সময়। সেই সাবেক মন্ত্রীসভা আমার আইনটাকে বাধা দিয়ে এসেছিলেন (hear, hear)। গত দুটা সেসন এইভাবে গিয়েছিল। এই সব লোক বাধা দিয়েছিল। সেই সেসনের মধ্যে non-official বিলের জন্য যে কয়টী দিন ছিল সেই কয়টী দিন অকারণে বন্ধ দিয়ে আমার এই বিলটী সাবেক মন্ত্রীরা একেবারে মাটী কোরে দিয়েছিল। এইরূপে বিলটী মাটী করার কোন কারণই ছিল না। আমি challenge করি সেই সাবেক Cabinetএর লোকদের যাঁরা এখানে আছেন কি কারণে সেই non-official day গুলো মাটী করা হয়েছিল

অনর্থক বন্ধ দিয়ে। অবশ্য এই নূতন Cabinetএ non-official কার্য্যের জন্য আজ আমরা এই প্রথম দিন পেয়েছি; এই দিনটা যে মাটী হয়নি এজন্য আমি এই নূতন Cabinetকে ধন্যবাদ দিচ্ছি।

আর একটা কথা হচ্ছে এই যে বিহারের আইনটা হবার পরে বাংলা দেশের জমিদারেরা চমকে গিয়েছিল, যে বাংলাদেশেও ঐ রকম একটা আইন হ'তে পারে; সেইজন্য অনেক জমি তারা ইতিপূর্ব্বেই অন্য প্রজার নিকট পত্তন দিয়ে ফেলেছে; কিন্তু আমি জানি এখনও বহু জমি পত্তন দেওয়া বাকী আছে, জমিদারের খাস দখলে এখনও বহু জমি আছে, এবং এই আইন হ'লে পর সাবেক প্রজারা সেই সকল জমি ফেরৎ পেয়ে দেশে থাকতে পারবে। আমি জানি আমার জেলায় কোন বিশিষ্ট জমিদার ঐ দুর্দ্দিনের সময়ে বহু জমি বাকী খাজনার ডিক্রিতে খাস কোরে ফেলেছিলেন এবং কলের লাঙ্গল দিয়ে তিনি সেই সকল জমি আবাদ করতেছেন। সেই সকল কলের লাঙ্গল (tractor)এর আওয়াজ ২ মাইল পর্য্যন্ত চলে যায়। সেই tractorএর আওয়াজ শুনে প্রজাদের মনে যে কি কষ্ট হয় তা আপনারা সহজেই অনুমান করতে পারেন। কাজেই আমি অনুরোধ করছি এই Cabinet যেন এই বিলকে নষ্ট না করেন।

আর একটা কথা। একবার এই বিল circulated হয়ে গেছে, কাজেই জনমত নেওয়া হয়েছে, এবং অধিকাংশ মতামত আমার বিলের পক্ষে দেওয়া হয়েছে। কাজেই পুনরায় মতামতের জন্য সময় নষ্ট করার দরকার হয় না। আর জনমতের দরকারই বা কি? আপনারা সকলেই জানেন প্রজার কি দুরবস্থা হয়েছে। Excessive rentএর জন্য বহু জমি নীলাম হয়ে গিয়াছে; সেই জমি ফিরিয়ে না দেওয়ায় প্রজাদের যে কি কষ্ট হয়েছে তা সকলেই জানেন। কাজেই এ সম্বন্ধে আর কোন লোকের মতামত নেবার আবশ্যকতা আছে বোলে মনে হয় না। সূর্য্য উঠেছে কিনা সেটা বাতি জ্বেলে দেখবার দরকার হয় না। কাজেই আমি বলছি এখনও বহু নিলামী জমি জমিদারেরা বন্দোবস্ত দেয় নি এবং যদি এই আইন পাশ হয় তাহলে এই সকল সাবেক প্রজার বহু উপকার হবে। আর লম্বা circulationএর যে প্রস্তাব মাননীয় রাজস্ব-মন্ত্রী কোরেছেন সে প্রস্তাব আমি কিছুতেই মানব না। আমি মাননীয় রাজস্ব-মন্ত্রীকে অনুরোধ করছি যে তিনি এই প্রস্তাবটা একটু ছোট করুন। অবশ্য এই মন্ত্রিসভা নূতন; তাঁরা আমার বিল সম্বন্ধে যদি বিশেষ study না কোরে থাকেন তাহলে আমি একটু short time দিতে পারি re-circulationএর জন্য। সেটা যেন মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় শোনেন। বাংলার প্রজারা ম'রে গেল একথা সকলে মাথায় হাত দিয়া চিন্তা করুন। কাজেই আমি অনুরোধ করি যে মাননীয় রাজস্ব-মন্ত্রী একটু short timeএর প্রস্তাব করুন re-circulationএর জন্য। সেটা যেন ৩০শে জুনের ওদিকে না যায়। মার্চ্চ, এপ্রিল, মে, জুন এই ৪ মাস সময় দিতে পারি। রাজস্ব-মন্ত্রী যদি এইরূপ প্রস্তাব করিতে সম্মত হন তাহলে আমি ঐ প্রস্তাব মানতে পারি। কাজেই আমার সনির্ব্বন্ধ অনুরোধ যে আমি যে প্রস্তাব করলাম সেই প্রস্তাবটী রাজস্ব-মন্ত্রী গ্রহণ করিয়া আগামী ৩০শে জুনের পরেই জুলাই সেসনে

যাহাতে বিলটা সিলেক্ট কমিটীতে যাইতে পারে তাহার যেন ব্যবস্থা করেন অথবা রাজস্ব-মন্ত্রী এই বিলের মতন একটা বিল যেন গভর্ণমেণ্টের তরফ হইতে তুলাই সেসনেই উপস্থিত করেন।

Mr. ASIMUDDIN AHMED : আমার বন্ধু আবদল হাকিম সাহেব যে বিল আনয়ন কোরেছেন এই বিল উপস্থিত করবার সময় আমার অপর বন্ধু অনেকেই হাস্‌ছেন। এই হাসির উদ্দেশ্য কি জানি না। নীলামী জমি ফেরত দেবার দাবী গত ১২ বৎসর যাবৎ চলে আস্‌চে। বঙ্গীয় কৃষক সমিতির, নিখিল বঙ্গ কৃষক-প্রজা সমিতির যত কন্‌ফারেন্স হয়েছে সব কন্‌ফারেন্সে প্রস্তাব পাশ করা হয়েছে যে নীলামী জমি ফিরিয়ে দিতে হবে কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট এ পর্য্যন্ত কিছুই করেন নি। বিশেষতঃ ভূতপূর্ব্ব Cabinet অধিকাংশ জমিদার দিয়ে গঠিত বোলে তা করেন নি। এটাই সর্ব্বসাধারণের ধারণা। বর্ত্তমানেও যদি আমরা সেটা suppress কর্‌তে থাকি এবং সময় দিয়ে দিয়ে এটা নষ্ট কর্‌তে চাই—এ রকম উদ্দেশ্য যদি থাকে—তাহলে আমি বল্‌ব আগের যে Cabinet তার চেয়ে এ Cabinet কোন অংশে ভাল নয়। এবং এটাকে National Government কখন বলা চল্‌বে না। কারণ কোন মানুষ ইচ্ছা ক'রতে পারে কি যে মানুষ বাড়ী ঘর ছেড়ে দিয়ে, তার স্ত্রী, পুত্র, কন্যা ছেড়ে বনে জঙ্গলে চলে যাবে আর সেই জায়গা ৫০৲ টাকা খাজনার জন্য ৫,০০০৲ হাজার টাকার সম্পত্তি বড় লোক জমিদারেরা নিয়ে ভোগ কর্‌বে? এ নীতি কোন মানুষ সমর্থন করবে না। এবং এর মধ্যে কোন justification নাই। দেশের সাম্‌নে তাঁরা কি কোরে বিবেচক বোলে অভিহিত হ'তে পারেন তা বুঝ্‌তে পারি না। কাজেই কোটি কোটি লোক গৃহ ছাড়া হয়ে ম'রে যাবে এ হ'তে পারে না। Landless লোকের মত দুরবস্থাসম্পন্ন লোক দুনিয়ায় আছে বলে বিশ্বাস কর্‌তে পারি না। গত কয়েক বছরে যে যে জমিদারের সমস্ত জমিদারী নীলাম হয়ে গেছে, তারা অবশ্য বুঝতে পার্‌বেন তাঁদের কি অবস্থা হয়েছে। যে কৃষকের বাড়ী, ঘর, সমস্ত সম্পত্তী নীলাম হয়ে গেছে, তাদের বাড়ী ঘর থেকে তাড়িয়ে দিয়ে জমিদারেরা সমস্ত দখল কোরেছে। মনুষ্যত্ব যাদের ভিতর আছে তাঁরা উপলব্ধি ক'র্‌তে পার্‌বেন। এ ছাড়া বেশী কিছু বল্‌তে চাই না। আমি বল্‌তে চাই Minister-in-charge of Land Revenue মহাশয়কে যে তিনি বাস্তবিক এই বিষয়টিকে তুচ্ছ মনে কোরে, বা সাধারণ মানুষের দাবী মনে কোরে বা কতকগুলো landless অর্থহীন নিরুপায় দুর্গতিসম্পন্ন লোকের voice মনে কোরে যেন হেলা করেন না। বাস্তবিক আমার বন্ধু আবদুল হাকিম সাহেব rent reductionএর জন্য সর্ব্বদা বলেন বোলে সকলে তাঁকে পাগল বলেন। কিন্তু কোন স্বার্থ উদ্ধার কর্‌তে হ'লে, কোন ভাল জিনিষ লাভ কর্‌তে হলে পাগল হ'তে হয়, উন্মাদ হ'তে হয়। কাজেই এটা ঠাট্টা বা হাসির জিনিষ নয়। আমি আশা করি এই জিনিষ খুব ভালভাবে বিবেচনা কোরে তার প্রতীকার ব্যবস্থা যেন এই হাউস করেন এবং মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ও করেন।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate my friend Maulvi Abdul Hakim on his bulldog-like tenacity. I quite appreciate that when he stands up there is laughter in the House, but this is a matter in which we should not laugh. There is

laughter because the members who laugh have no sympathy with the poor people living in the villages. I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue to the fact that there is a similar provision in the Bengal Money-lenders Act. In the Bengal Money-lenders Act there is a provision for setting aside a decree under certain conditions and also the sale in execution of that decree. I do not know why should not there be such a provision when a sale takes place in execution of a rent decree. There should not be any distinction between sales taking place in execution of money decrees and sales taking place in execution of rent decrees. And, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the House and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue to the fact that there is a similar provision in Bihar. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister claims to be a Congressman, and my friend Maulvi Abdul Hakim has said that he has practically copied the legislation that has been passed there with certain changes. So, Sir, this is a matter in which we should not wait. There is reason for recirculation so far as the Bill that has been moved by Mr. Maqbul Hossain is concerned, but there is absolutely no reason why this Bill should be recirculated. This Bill must be referred to a Select Committee (Cries of "Yes, yes") and the provisions of this Bill could have been considered here today. We are all agreeable that this Bill should be passed, and persons who have got sympathy with the poor people must agree that the provisions of this Bill must be passed in view of the fact that there is a similar provision in the Moneylenders Act as also in the Agricultural Debtors Act. So, the principle of the Bill has been accepted by the past Government. When the Agricultural Debtors Act was passed, the principle of the Bill was accepted; when the Moneylenders Act was passed the principle of the Bill was accepted; and so there is no reason why this Ministry should not accept this Bill and should move for recirculation of the Bill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to my friends opposite that they should not agree to recirculation. This Bill must be referred to a Select Committee; this Bill must be passed immediately.

With these few words and with an appeal to my friends, I support the motion that has been moved by my friend for reference to a Select Committee and not for recirculation.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by Maulvi Abdul Hakim. I have wholehearted sympathy with what my honourable friend Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta has said and I fully support him. As a matter of fact, the case for a legislation of this nature has been made a strong one; it is already overdue and should have been passed long ago. So, Sir, there is no justification for losing further time.

Now, Sir, it appears that there is a notice of a motion of the Hon'ble Minister for recirculation and the time given is up to the 31st March, 1943. That is only a bluff. I draw the attention of the honourable mover Maulvi Abdul Hakim to this particularly and would request him not to give his assent thereto. This would mean that the Government is trying to shelve the Bill and is not trying to go forward with the Bill. What I want is that the Bill should be referred to the Select Committee as has been proposed by Maulvi Abdul Hakim.

Mr. NIHARENDU DATTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, I would like to offer just one suggestion in connection with Maulvi Abdul Hakim's Bill before the Hon'ble Minister replies. About the principle of the Bill there has been no disagreement or no dispute. This Bill is urgent. I understand that it is the desire of the Hon'ble Minister to have this Bill recirculated till the 30th of June. In that event if the Hon'ble Minister finds himself unable to consider this Bill forthwith or as expeditiously as possible he will please enlighten the House whether it will not be possible for him to issue a communique cautioning the landlords who have purchased such lands in auction sales that they shall not be settled on anybody else except the former tenants. If any settlement of the land is effected before the legislation is given effect to, such settlement will be declared null and void. I suggest that by communique (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You mean Ordinance) or by Ordinance it should be announced. I feel that the Hon'ble Minister should forthwith suggest how exactly if the enactment is delayed, the tenants may not be prejudiced by the fact of their lands sold in auction being resettled on new persons. Particular attention should be given to this question and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will enlighten the House very clearly today as to what procedure he proposes to adopt to see that the interests of the tenants are not prejudiced.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move by way of amendment that the Bill be recirculated for the purpose of eliciting further opinion thereon by 30th June, 1942.

Sir, in moving this amendment I make it absolutely clear that I do not propose to reject the proposal made by my honourable friend Maulvi Abdul Hakim.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister has changed the date from 31st March, 1943, to 30th June, 1942. Have you given your consent?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, he has told me about it before.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: *That was the* date which was mentioned by the honourable mover himself. The position is this, so far as the present Bill is concerned, it has been drawn up on the lines of the Bihar Act for the restoration of *bakash* lands. My friend's Bill is more all-embracing than the Bihar Act and it is perfectly true that after the assumption of office I have not been able to find sufficient time to go through the measure passed by the Bihar Government.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: The Select Committee will give you the time. What were you doing?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: My honourable friend, Mr. Fazlur Rahman is a member of a committee whose report I am awaiting. The Bill provides for the restoration of *raiyati* land which was sold in execution of a decree for arrears of rents at any time between 1st January, 1932, to 31st December, 1938, and which was purchased by the landlord and is in khas possession or under his control. Secondly, the Bill provides that on the tenant concerned making an application for the restoration of such lands, the Collector may order such restoration on payment of 50 per cent. only of the amount mentioned in the sale proclamation and costs subsequently incurred by landlords in getting possession of the lands. Thirdly, the Bill provides that the tenant may be ordered to pay the amount in instalments ranging over 5 years. Sir, I will now mention here two aspects of Constitutional law. The first is that this is a matter which is characterised in societies who are perhaps called capitalistic as an expropriatory measure. The second is this is a measure which proposes to have retrospective operation. The present Government should get an opportunity of considering these two aspects of the matter and, therefore, Sir, I am moving a short amendment only to be able to consider the proposal before us up to the 30th June, 1942. I find that in this matter my honourable friends in the Opposition are also very pleased.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: We are going to oppose it.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: We want to refer the Bill to the Select Committee.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: That we know. My honourable friend Mr. Shahabuddin knows more than I do the constitutional implication of a reference to the Select Committee, viz., reference to the Select Committee means the acceptance of the principle of the Bill, and the acceptance of the principle of the Bill as I mentioned just now, means first of all the acceptance of expropriatory

legislation and secondly acceptance of legislation with retrospective operation. These two principles the world at large has not been able to accept with universal consensus, and I am therefore asking for a little time to consider whether or not it should be accepted.

My honourable friend, Mr. Datta mentioned one phrase about the "bulldog tenacity". I don't want to introduce the names of noble animals like bulldogs in the course of a discussion on tenancy legislation.

Mr. SPEAKER: In vain.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, there are bulldogs and John Bulls about. But can a leopard change its spots? Whether or not I claim my Congress affiliation is a question which is outside the orbit of this legislative measure. I repeat Sir, can a leopard change its spots? I am not speaking about lions and tigers. Mr. Datta is of opinion that so far as the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act and the Bengal Money-lenders Act are concerned, the Legislature in its wisdom has accepted the proposals which underlie the intended legislative measure. True Sir, but the analogy is not perfect. If you accept the principles underlying this particular legislative measure you will be affecting all grades of rent receivers and the revenues of the Government. These are matters which require serious consideration not only from the Government Benches but also from my friends on the Opposition Benches.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Where was your wisdom?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Let knowledge come but wisdom lingers on the shore.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: We oppose this motion of the Hon'ble Minister because he has not made out any case for its recirculation. As Mr. Datta has clearly pointed out the principles involved in this Bill have already been accepted in connection with other legislation by this House. Therefore the question of acceptance of the principles does not arise and we oppose this motion of the Hon'ble Minister.

Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM: Sir, I accept the amendment moved by the Hon'ble Minister.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee, by way of amendment to the main motion of Maulvi Abdul Hakim, that the Bill

be recirculated for the purpose of eliciting further opinion thereon by the 30th of June, 1942, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—66.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Acharyya Choudhury, Maharaja Sashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath
Basu, the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Hashem Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
McPherson, Mr. G. P.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. (Bogra).
Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur, Uday Chand, of Burdwan.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mookerjee, the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulv Syed
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Sulaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mukerjea, Mr. Taraknath, M. B. E.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Paul, Sir Hari Sanker.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, the Hon'ble Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Yousuf Mirza.

NOES—32.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali)
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
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Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C. B. E
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Yousuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.

The Ayes being 66 and the Noes 32, the motion was carried.

Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, I move that the time for submission of the Select Committee Report on the Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1939, by Maulvi Muhammad Israil be extended till the 31st July, 1942.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any objection?

(No objection was raised.)

So, the time is extended.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 11-40 a.m. till 8-30 a.m. on Monday, the 9th March, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

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